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WEEKLY

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GRAZIANI JUST FOR PEANUTS!

BY KEITH GILMOUR

ITALIAN and world superstar FRANCESCO GRAZIANI won't cost APIA-Leichhardt one cent in match fees for his Australian games.

This amazing disclosure by club president Joe Prestia speaks volumes for the attitude of the great Udinese striker.

Graziani will be in action against Preston at Belmore Sports Ground next Sunday.

Mr Prestia said: "Sure we will be up for the premium on a \$3 million injury insurance policy.

"But when we offered him first class air travel he declined, saying it would cost us less if he came tourist class. There was no fuss at all."

APIA realise that the best figure they could have paid him would have merely amounted to a pittance — even an insult — compared with his Italian League payments.

The dynamic attitude of Prestia at the APIA football club helm demonstrates the potential of soccer; if men of his vision and promotional outlook are on the job.

Said Prestia: "We booked Belmore Sports Ground and engaged Martin Tauber to package Graziani's visit.

"Soccer patrons today want comfortable

facilities, all the very best."

APIA has been producing South Melbourne to switch rounds the following week.

That would mean a gigantic Saturday night

floodlit promotion at Belmore on May 30.

Mr Prestia is also gunning for a big challenge match featuring the last Australian appearance of Graziani on Sunday

June 7.

This is the first week of the lay-off due to the absence of the Australian team in South Korea.

No stone should be left unturned to make this

into a big day for all football fans.

It would certainly be an ideal way to overcome the hiatus caused by the ridiculous NSL shut down while the tour is on.



FRANCESCO GRAZIANI, former Italian World Cup star, guests for APIA.

BEACH FASHIONS CUP

SBS is set to kill the televising of matches next year. They have been going to air this year at 11.30am on Sundays.

The reason? There are 100,000 of them, the cost and little response at the gates.

Under these circumstances the sponsor could do a lot better — television or no television — if the Cup reverted to the format of including top State League sides.

**NEXT ISSUE
WEDNESDAY
MAY 27**

SYDNEY CROATIA'S EXTENSIONS REVEALED

BY FRANK COLETTA

SYDNEY CROATIA last night revealed exciting plans exclusively to Australian Soccer Weekly of their arrangements to instal a magnificent grandstand to accomodate 3500 patrons at the Croatian Sports Centre.

With their team riding on a crest of a wave on top of the National League, the club is expected to begin work on the updating of the ground within a couple of months.

The erection of the grandstand on the northern side of the ground has already been approved by Fairfield Council.

Initial estimates of the cost exceed the \$1 million mark. The architect is the same one who designed the magnificent Parramatta Stadium.

This is only the start of the Croatian Sports Centre's facelift however. Immediately behind the stand will be ample car-parking. If the Edensor Park ground has any bugbears, they are a limitation of car parking space and no spectator cover, but soon these will be overcome.

Two blocks have been purchased behind the ground to cater for the patrons driving to the match.

The grandstand will take over the entire northern hill and the facilities will include the press box, dressing rooms underneath, clubhouse on top and gymnasium.

Once the first stand is completed an adjoining stand will be constructed behind the western goal. It will be the same style and configuration as the main stand.

Following the completion of all the covered seating, the remaining areas will be filled by aluminium seating.

A press conference will be held within a fortnight to reveal all the plans and show off the impressive scale model.

It was also announced yesterday that the annual Croatian tournament will go ahead in November with Sydney and Melbourne Croatia being main participants.

Over twenty sides will compete, drawn from major centres all over Australia.

THE need to supply an increasingly informative and stimulating weekly Australia-wide publication has led to our Management deciding to go on sale on Wednesday in future.

Your patronage for Australia's foremost Soccer paper is greatly appreciated.

Our staff and correspondents are directing a lot of effort towards updating all sections, and the extra day will aid our endeavours.

This week we introduce yet another personality to the paper.

ALAN HUNTER, the Australian squad defender is now our Victorian advertising representative.

He can be contacted on 03 329 8944 at our West Melbourne office. Our NSW representative JOHN ECONOMOS is available on 02 660 2033.

BY FRANK COLETTA

THE media release made by the National Soccer League over the Footscray JUST-Sydney Croatia fracas at Schintler Reserve was a reasonable synopsis of the events.

It did, however, spend a deal of space listing the officials and police in attendance, whilst being perhaps a little short on content.

The main points were the decision that the Footscray club management had obeyed the rules and therefore were not at fault, that the game had been well conducted and that the issues were outside the realms of Soccer.

Nonetheless, the position should not end there, even allowing the natural desire to put non-football matters aside and get on with the game.

The positive fact is that disturbances of this nature are the bane of Soccer and their existence is the one true way to ensure that the game will not reach the heights that it should.

For the man in the street the relevance of deep-seated European political issues to Australian sport is impossible to comprehend.

At the same time it has to be realised, in a migrant receiving country, that many of these ancient antipathies do not die easily — if ever for that matter.

People have definite rights in a democracy to state their case to the best of their ability.

This is the safety value that applies in Australia. It is something that also applies in countries such as the United States and Canada, which have somewhat comparable ethnic make-ups.

But, by the same token there is no right for those freedoms to be abused.

It is true that, amongst the longer established 'Australian' population, there is from time to time sorry indications of bad crowd behaviour.

These things are at times swept under the carpet. A case was documented sometime ago of widespread misbehaviour at Lang Park, Brisbane, which barely reached the media.

Regardless of that, one lot of rioting does not condone another. Soccer, being the minority sport, somehow has to shoulder an additional burden when things go wrong.

It cannot afford to have things going awry. There is insufficient base now in the wider national media, and it must not be frittered away.

The lunatic fringe that causes these riots is not very great in number, but by politicising Soccer football they are ruining it.

One case that came to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY's notice was that of a keen Soccer fan of Southern European origin who took his wife and family to the game in question.

He had no connection whatsoever to either competing club, and was there to see one of the best games of football that was offering in Australia on the day.

The result? An assurance that he will never take his family to such a match again.

The situation was scary. The feeling was there that his kith and kin might not even see the light of another day.

Tough stuff? Even club and national team players can vouch for the feeling of terror that for a time enshrouded them.

When these things happen — remember some 50 police were called in — the game is the loser and other sentiments are aroused.

A natural reaction is to seek to have the game restructured without nationalistic elements.

Soccer at public entertainment level is fragmented badly — even wounded — but there is no room for panic measures even allowing that NSL attendances are mainly of Greek, Yugoslav and Italian background.

It would perhaps be different if, with the assistance of the major media, Soccer was to be properly launched on a wide, across the board basis.

Nothing is surer than the existence of worthwhile NSL clubs from Brisbane, Canberra, Wollongong and Newcastle — with broad supporter followings — would have a balancing effect on excesses such as the one that has been witnessed.

Cannot Soccer learn the lesson that is there for all to see in cricket, Australian rules, rugby league and basketball.

Soccer has a much greater ethnic content, which cannot be allowed to wither, but recent events prove that there is much more to the sport than certain excesses that go with it.

NATIONAL coach Frank Arok's Winfield Socceroo squad was well received, but it remains to be seen how some of the players shape up.

The situation is particularly important, in view of the Australians' appearance against the might of English champions Everton at Olympic Park tomorrow fortnight (Wednesday June 3).

Whilst there were no real shock omissions, fitness doubts hang ominously over the heads of Zarko Odzakovic and Oscar Crino, but Alan Davidson's position, Arok advises, is improving with every run.

It is also worth mentioning that Graham Jennings only recently made his return from a dodgy ankle injury.

Odzakovic has to be the biggest worry. His damaged knee is not right and won't be for another fortnight. He has only just started running, hardly enough time to prepare for the big Everton battle.

Crino has only played a couple of games since his return for Footscray but as Sydney Croatia's Graham Arnold said: "The class is still there. He was brilliant in our match down in Melbourne."

Slowly but surely Davidson is finding his feet once more but it is patently clear that it is still not the same 'Dave' we came to know during the World Cup qualifiers, he needs more time.

But Arok is a shrewd customer, with the 23-man squad he has more than covered for possible fitness failure.

Charlie Villani's selection

is a breath of fresh air and don't be surprised if he is used as an attacking midfielder rather than an out and out striker.

With Arnold also quite adept at coming from deep, Villani and he would complement the explosive attacking styles of Frank Farina and Chris Kalantzis up front.

Anthony Franken is second only to Jeff Olver in the goalkeeping race and is the obvious choice to be the number two to the Heidelberg gloveman for the Everton match.



CHRIS KALANTZIS

Marconi's versatile defender Robbie Wheatley has worked hard and it is hoped that his selection will be the start of a long career in the green and gold.

Alan Hunter and Wheatley could well prove our central defensive combination of the future, but for now Charlie Yankos and Robbie Dunn hold that domain.

The front-line is as potent as possible. Andrew Zinni of Brunswick rounds up the five in contention for a spot and after his sensational Socceroo debut against Czechoslovakia last year he has as good a chance as

any.

When it is considered that capable strikers such as Robbie Slater, John Kosmina, Rod Brown, David Lowe and Steve Maxwell were overlooked, there is no doubt Australia is well-endowed in this department.

Lowe is desperately unlucky. A victim of his own class really. The Novocastrian's ability to move from the forwards to the midfield has cost him a place, even though Arok seemed pleased that he was proving so versatile and Lowe himself says he is content with the move back to the 'engine room' but one feels that he yearns to be in the firing line more often.

Ernie Tapai, Russell Stewart and Maxwell are on the outer, simply because their form did not warrant selection.

As ever the strength in the Winfield Socceroos is with the defence. There is plenty of power and finesse about the men there and with Olver and/or Franken behind them there couldn't be a safer pair of hands as back-up.

The prowess of our defenders will be surely tested when Everton come to town. The likes of Adrian Heath, Kevin Sheedy, Graeme Sharp and Wayne Clarke will prove one heck of a forward rolling juggernaut to contain.

The squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Jeff Olver, Anthony Franken, Michael Gibson.
DEFENDERS: Wally Savor, Graham Jennings, Charlie Yankos (Captain), Robbie Dunn, Gary McDowell, Alan Hunter, Robbie Wheatley, Jean-Paul de Marigny, Alan Davidson.
MIDFIELDERS: Paul Wade, Tommy McCulloch, Zarko Odzakovic, Peter Raskopoulos, Oscar Crino, Sergio Motta.
STRIKERS: Graham Arnold, Frank



ALAN DAVIDSON, back in the big time with the Socceroos.

Farina, Andrew Zinni, Chris Kalantzis, Charlie Villani.
The squad will be reduced to 18 to travel to Korea.

THE Winfield Socceroo itinerary is:

JUNE 3 v Everton at Olympic Park, Melbourne (friendly).
JUNE 9 v Morocco at Kangnung, South Korea (Pres.Cup).
JUNE 11 v Deportivo Espanol at Kyongju.
JUNE 13 v Kuwait at Taegu.
JUNE 15 v Korea B at Suwon.
JUNE 17 v VVV FC at Incheon.

The semi-finals of the President's Cup, featuring the winners and runners-up from Group A and B, will take place at the Olympic Stadium in Seoul on Friday June 19, with the final at the same ground on Sunday June 21.

The teams in Group A are: Chile, Egypt, Thailand, USA, Korea A and

a leading club team from Eastern Europe.

Everton will play two games in New Zealand prior to meeting the Socceroos, one against Auckland and another against Canterbury before jetting off to Hawaii.

SCHINTLER RESERVE HOSTILITIES

THE NSL-VSF statement on the affair reads:

"At a conference attended by Mr Sam Papasavas, Chairman of the National Soccer League, Mr Jack Reilly, Chairman of the Victorian Soccer Federation, Mr Tony Kovac, Vice President of the National Soccer League, Mr Tony Amon, President of Footscray SC, Mr George Wallace, Executive Director Victorian Soccer Federation and from the Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner John Frame, Chief Superintendent Barry Phelan and Inspector Bill Kelly the matter of the disturbance of Schintler Reserve on Sunday 10th May 1987 was discussed.

"The ten arrests made by the police arose from a couple of incidents during the game but the majority arose after the game had been completed and outside the ground. The game had been conducted in true sportsmanship by both clubs and the referees stated that no problems had arisen on the field during the game and he was never in any danger whatsoever, in fact it had been a perfect game.

"The incidents that arose after the game had nothing to do with Soccer. The Footscray Club had taken all adequate precautions for the staging of the game.

"The Victorian Soccer Federation and the National Soccer League place the onus on Clubs to ensure that unruly elements are eradicated from the game.

"In future any game with potential security problems will be directed to be played at Olympic Park or any other ground that has the necessary security in place.

"The Victorian Soccer Federation and the National Soccer League are totally disgusted that an unruly minority, not necessarily associated with the sport, are using the game to achieve their own desires."

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SYDNEY SUPERSONICS

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THE "RALLY!" COLUMN

CHOICE OF PLAYER OF THE YEAR!

WHEN it comes to conducting Player-of-the-Year competitions, we are entitled to ask: "What is the best method to use?"

Many years ago it was left to the referee, but he had his hands tied controlling the 22 players without having to judge the best of them.

Maybe too he was inclined to pick out those who gave him the least trouble!

These days it seems to be the province of some journalists, and coaches to allocate the marks.

But we are entitled to look for alternatives. Who knows - there may be a better system available, which would be better for players, public and sponsors.

One way would be to have the coaches give their views after each match. After all, they should be sound judges.

As an alternative each coach could be asked to provide the three best players in his own team.

The sort of advantage this has is that it gets rid of the problem of what in-

structions an opposing coach has given to his players.

For example I can't predict what instructions Eddie Thomson has given to his players. How do you judge them if you don't know what they were required to do.

One barrier that a coach faces is trouble in identifying some members of the opposing line-ups.

After all, we haven't seen an NSL Year Book yet and most coaches don't pick up the opposition players on the team sheets.

Unfortunately many clubs don't have proper offices where these things can be lined up.

If proper lists aren't supplied it would be a hypocrisy to have coaches making selections.

Everyone will agree that any Player-of-the-Year competition must



CHARLIE VILLANI... fast and deadly.



RALE BASIC — the man who led Australia to the 1974 World Cup and current APIA coach writes for ASW and he holds nothing back!

be run in a way so that, at the end of the year, a person who is well and truly qualified receives his just reward.

Improvements

In 1977, when the NSL began, many more professional ideas were introduced.

Club secretaries had conferences, visiting teams were provided with various facilities, and match programs were improved.

In 1987 we have to put our houses back in order once again.

Teams don't know whether they are coming

or going, and that should be fixed.

Match programs must be improved.

When we went to Melbourne recently the match program showed Nick Papallo (our licensed Club president) as the APIA football club president instead of Joe Prestia.

Players are much faster and far more committed as well.

The Sydney clubs are enjoying much better crowds and facilities are better as well. The APIA-Olympic game is a case in point.

Clubs have to invest twice as much money as they used to, and that is a

big point to be faced every season.

Bob Powell was listed as secretary and he is at St George these days.

Janusz Baran was shown on our players' list and he is with Polonia in Melbourne.

Clubs must put out proper team line-ups. The 1977 idea of individual autographed player pictures is worth repeating.

But, on the football field, tremendous advances have been made.

Villani

What an incomparable fellow Charlie Villani is!

He is so gifted and I have never believed that he is a player who can be overlooked for the national squad.

Charlie is an introverted person — he doesn't know how good he is. He should be the Maradona of Australian Soccer.

It wouldn't be a bad idea if there was some

consultation about players of his calibre.

Remember when Oscar Crino came into the Australian team.

As Crino slowed the game down and chipped the ball around, Australia became a different team.

Charlie has different attributes. He is much faster and deadlier in the box.

He is elusive, loose, and brilliant. I believe that he is a player who is needed.



OSCAR CRINO... complementary talents.

COMPETITION ON RADIO

THE NSW Soccer Federation has teed up a prominent sports commentator to include a State Bank League Soccer segment.

With one station's program having put so much time into the UK scene, and another needing to extend its cover, a new well-publicised State Bank League segment should be a huge success.

Looks like NSW is in for an innovative time after missing the bus completely for so many years.

STATE LEAGUE

THE State League clubs have their golden chance to promote and win fans while the NSL is in recess. In NSW games like Manly-Wollongong, Canberra-Blacktown, and Sutherland-Rockdale have tons of potential, but the clubs MUST get out there and sell NOW.



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NO FA CUP BUT OLYMPIC WIN PLEASES THOMSON

By JOHN ECONOMOS

PETER RASKOPOULOS, making a comeback from suspension, turned in a magnificent performance to help Olympic to a 2-1 win over Marconi at the St George Stadium.

The victory pleased Olympic's coach Eddie Thomson and the fans but this was not a great match, especially after most spectators at the Stadium, only hours before, had witnessed the glorious English FA Cup final.

The return of Raskopoulos gave Olympic much needed direction.

Marconi looked lifeless, especially in the midfield which seemed disjointed and unbalanced and sadly missing tough tackling Craig Mason.

Marconi's left-back, Robbie Wheatley, summed it up correctly when he said after the match: "We all did our job correctly as individuals, but failed as a unit."

Thomson, fully aware that Marconi's star flank-striker, Frank Farina could destroy Olympic if let loose, assigned Robbie Hooker to shackle Farina. Hooker did an excellent job.

With all due respect to Marconi, why on earth do they persevere with Lowe in midfield? Lowe has the pace, vision and shot to excel as a striker, a role he has played all his life except over the last few months.

Olympic opened the scoring in the 27th minute when Olympic's free-back, Tony Dakos, chimed into a raid in the 27th to blast a shot at Marconi's goalkeeper, Bobby Catlin.

Catlin half blocked the

drive but Olympic's value utility man, Stuart Johnston, backed up to slot into the target from 10 metres.

Raskopoulos made it 2-0 when he met a brilliant ball cut back off the byline by left striker, Chris Kalantzis, to bury it home from 10 metres.

Marconi pulled a goal back in the 80th minute when Tommy McCulloch floated a free-kick into the box from the left for substitute Geoff Gunning to tap home from two metres.

Best performers for



STUART JOHNSTON of Sydney Olympic attacks the Marconi goalmouth. Lee Sterrey defends with Bob Catlin and Tony Henderson.

Olympic were Raskopoulos, Johnston, Hooker and Spanoudakis whilst Marconi's best servants were Henderson and Wheatley.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier: Dragicevic, Ratcliffe, Dakos, Hooker, Georgiakis (Spanoudakis 30th):

Johnston, Raskopoulos, Estavillo: Kosmina, Kalantzis.

MARCONI: Catlin: Sterrey, Henderson, Gomez, Wheatley: Lowe, Gray, McCulloch, Carbone (Gunning 46th): Farina, Maxwell.

Referee: R. Lorenc. Yellow cards: Gray, Raskopoulos, Henderson, Johnston, Kalantzis.

JUST REVIVAL GAINS FURTHER GROUND

BY GREG BLAKE

THE long awaited Footscray JUST revival gained momentum in the mud and slush of Melbourne's Olympic Park on Sunday as Drago Sekularic's quickly improving team beat bitter rivals Melbourne Croatia 1-0.

A glorious 57th minute Warren Spink goal grabbed the lead for JUST and the Blues held on for their first victory of the season.

The arrival of Oscar Crino in the first team has coincided with a marked improvement in Footscray's fortunes with his first game a scoreless draw against league leader Sydney Croatia and on Sunday the Blues went one better with this long awaited victory.

Crino was not the best player on the Park — the accolades for Footscray's win must go to Bill Lazo-

poulos for sterling work at the back, Tyrone James, Zoran Nikitovic and veteran Zvracko Lujic.

But just to have Crino there — even when he's obviously not 100 percent fit — is a bonus and it was some of his incisive passing and ball control that added colour to a lifeless game.

At the moment Crino is doing things through his uncanny instinct and his body isn't as receptive as it could be after his long layoff.

Footscray supporters can't wait to see what he'll produce when he is fully fit.

Melbourne Croatia, under the guidance on new coach Peter Ollerton, lost any chance to impress its partisan home crowd by blowing the half dozen good chances it created.

Paul Lewis will have nightmares about his game as the stocky blond hit the post, cracked one off the underside of a crossbar and made a hash of an open goal opportunity before being substituted.

Croatia, missing suspended Soccerro Robbie Dunn, had fine individuals in Jim Campbell, George Hannah, Alan Scott and Don McIntosh but the system isn't quite their yet.

The decisive 57th minute goal was one of the rare moments of inspiration in a plodding game, which was partly dictated by the inclement conditions.

The laconic James eased his way down the right be-

fore swinging an enticing cross towards the near post and Spink launched himself into a spectacular dive to drill a header past Mirko Runje.

But for all the 90 minute action it was, for me, two moments of Crino which stood out like a beacon on a murky afternoon.

With the game 10 minutes old Crino's magic propelled him on a run into the six yard box and around the keeper before his final shot was hooked off the line.

Ten minutes from half-time Crino sent the ageless Lujic away down the line with an instinctive touch off the outside of his foot under pressure from two defenders from inside his own half. Pure genius.

With Crino's best form on the horizon and the possible inclusion of former Melbourne Croatia skipper Drago Deankovic into the Footscray lineup (Deankovic appeared in the JUST rooms before the game on Sunday) that club is now looking for a place in the top four.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje, Davidson, McIntosh, Milosevic, Hannah, Heys, Blakic, Campbell, Lewis (Humble 74), Wallace and Scott.

FOOTSCRAY JUST: Nikitovic, James, Karic, Lazopoulos, Radivojevic (Burlack 75), Bozinovski, Lujic, Curovic, Campbell, Spink and Crino.

REFEREE: S. Mellings. ATTENDANCE: 2,500.

STEVENSON CARVES OUT VICTORY

BY PETER GEORGIU

SOUTH MELBOURNE's Stuart Stevenson scored the goal that gave his team a 1-0 win over NSL champions Adelaide City at Middle Park on Sunday.

The game produced some good standard football in the first half but afterwards the quality fell away.

Adelaide City lapsed into a series of mistakes, but the home side could not take advantage of a situation that was handed to them on a plate.

South Melbourne was well-organised in the first half and created many opportunities to score.

Soon after the opening whistle Paul Wade almost netted with a

header but Sergio Melta cleared from the line.

The only goal arrived in the 25th minute with a shot from Stevenson after Angie Postecoglou had centred.

Adcity made a few sorties but the Melbourne team had midfield control.

Three minutes before the break Danny Wright missed a golden chance from a good position.

And right on halftime Aurelio Vidmar's shot

hit the post.

The Adelaide side lifted their workrate and in the 54th minute Lemmy Vatsilas almost scored but his shot was turned off the line by John Russell.

From there on Adelaide City fell into a series of errors but South Melbourne failed to take advantage of the position.

In the 69th minute Willie McNally dived to save a strong header by Wade that was goalbound.

The best on the day for South Melbourne were Wade, Richard Miranda and Stevenson.

Adcity were best served by Adrian Santrac and the wily veteran Buggy Nyskohus.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumeta, Russell, Postecoglou, Blair, Miranda, Halford (Kalogeros 82), Wade, Dunn, Wright, Egan, Stevenson.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally, Shillabeer, Tobin, Nyskohus, Melta, Santrac, Villani, Miller, Wild, Vidmar, Vatsilas (Toland 68). Referee: A. Owens. Crowd: 2,000.

APIA v PRESTON MAKEDONIA



ARNO BERTOINA

TERRY BUTLER

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CHARLIE YANKOS



FRANCESCO GRAZIANI . . . Italy 40 times over.



ROD BROWN



TONY PEZZANO



PETER TREDINNICK



ALEX VESIC
reviews the
NSW State
Bank League

LATE GOAL EARNS A POINT

KU-RING-GAI scored a late equaliser at Parklands following an even and entertaining encounter with Sutherland Shire.

With only nine minutes left and Sutherland clinging to its slender lead Ku-Ring-Gai attacked. Glen Jeffery crossed to the far post for Neale Williamson to head on for Craig Bass to run in and head past Burchmore and make it 1-1.

A free kick on the edge of the area was blocked by the Ku-Ring-Gai wall but the referee asked for the kick to be re-taken. This time Steve Meades found the hole in the wall and scored.

A minute later the home side was on even terms.

Both camps were satisfied with the scoreline, particularly the home side, while yours truly can boast predicting the scoreline.

KU-RING-GAI: Lacey, Kevern, Goldsowth, Campbell, Pepper, Sutherland, Quigley, Berry, Bennett (69th Williamson), Jeffery, Bass.

SUTHERLAND: Burchmore, R. O'Shea, Cox, Terry, Nelson, J. O'Shea, Meades, Harrington, Lerond, Caban, Sharpe.

DEMONS OPEN UP FOUR POINT GAP

BLACKTOWN City Demons, helped by Ralph Maier's superb goal at Berkeley, have opened up a healthy lead and now head the State Bank League by four points.

Canberra City, winners over Uruguayan Penrith with an equally superb goal from Sixto Gonzales, are close on their heels and with a game in hand against Inter Monaro look like the team to close the gap to two points.

Melita Eagles continued its charge last Sunday with a fighting 2-1 win over Wollongong City after the visitors led going into the second half.

A goal by Callanan seven minutes into the second half put Melita

and Wollongong in equal second spot alongside Canberra Griffin and the stage is now set for a barnstorming finish to the first half of the premiership.

Rockdale Ilinden, unlucky losers against Blacktown in the ninth round, turned the tables last Sunday whipping Canterbury 6-0 with Genovese and Bedoni picking up two goals each.

Ku-Ring-Gai and Sutherland fought a predictable game with neither giving an inch to

share the points after an exciting encounter.

Warringah Freshwater was back on the winning trail with a 2-0 win over its rivals Manly Warringah.

Mirko Radosavljevic and Paul Fagan scored those much needed goals for Freshwater, while the locals missed a couple of late chances.

It was also the round which saw some superb finishing with Maier, Radosavljevic, Gonzales and Bass scoring superb goals.



GREG BROWN (Melita)



LEN VIAL (Melita)

CALLANAN RISES HIGH TO RESCUE EAGLES

ANDREW Callanan rose high at the far post in the 52nd minute of the match at Melita Stadium to score a superb goal from a cross by Greg Brown to provide his side with the hard earned points against a very competitive outfit from Wollongong.

This was Callanan's fourth goal of the season and his third in successive games. This just might be the goal that will influence the final placings as the top four teams battle for the lead.

Wollongong Wolves looked by far the more composed and creative side during the first period and had opportunities to slay the Eagles.

Alas, some poor finishing by the visitors and superb keeping by Dragan Pupovac kept the scoreline blank until three minutes before half time.

Randell Easthorpe missed a sitter in the 6th, then Roberto Giral-di had his chance in the 27th but to no avail.

Brown missed one at the other end before Wollongong went into the lead.

David Skeen and Zivko Hristovski combined to set Giral-di with an opportunity and the young striker scored his sixth goal of the season to give his side the lead.

Two minutes into the second half the locals were on level terms. Lenny Vial found Ean Rodrigues who rounded Dickson then slotted his shot home.

Then came the goal from Callanan to seal the issue.

Wollongong threw men forward in search of an equaliser but to no avail. Pupovac, in goal for the injured Gosling, made a superb save in the 66th from a header

by Cokely then from Skeen in the 77th to keep Melita in front.

MELITA: Pupovac, Williams, Meerbani, Reveley, Cabassi, Well-

bourn, Rodrigues, Vial, Brown, Callanan, Serbas.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Young, Skeen, Morlando, Dickson, Hollfield, Cokely, Giral-di, Alnsworth, (Berringer 79th), Brodnik, Easthorpe, Hristovski (Arcosa 72nd).

GONZALES WINS AND LOSES

SIXTO Gonzales of Peru, lately of Canberra City, scored the goal which decided the issue at Cook Park. At the other end Washington Gonzales of Uruguay and lately of Uruguayan Penrith failed to convert his chances.

In fact the Peruvian connection of Palacios and Gonzales combined to score the only goal of the game. Palacios broke through on the right hand side before placing his cross accurately for Sixto Gonzales to score with a well placed header.

Much talked about, ex Penarol star, Washington Gonzales did little to enhance his reputation after missing a couple of openings at the other end. But he would not be the only one to feel low following this defeat at Cook Park.

John McKie, Craig Thompson and Ian Hunter also missed openings which could have swung the game Uruguay's way.

The goal by visitors, scored after only 10 minutes of the first half, provided Palacios with an ideal opportunity to play counter attacking football with only two men up front and he did his job to perfection, threatening Hoare on quite a few occasions.

The home side despite the territorial advantage failed to capitalise and will have to look hard and fast at improving its strike rate in the next few games.

URUGUAYAN: Hoare, O'Donnell, Tomasich, Woods (72nd Batten), Bourke, Gonzales, Thompson (72nd Krslovic), Bradley, Hunter, Genc, McKie.

CANBERRA: Ginnascl, Bryant, Mazia, Dunn, Suarez, P. Reis, Juna, Sermani, Palacios, A. Reis, Gonzales.

MARADONA MAIER

RALPH Maier, ex-youth international, scored one of the best goals seen at the State League grounds with an overhead scissors kick to give his side the lead with 10 minutes of the game remaining.

"It was like Maradona," said coach Les Scheinflug describing the goal which led Blacktown to victory.

"We are going through a rough patch at the moment. We are not playing as well as we could but we are getting the points. It makes me happy to know that we can play far better and with important games coming up we are bound to hit our straps," added Scheinflug.

Well, one couldn't

help feeling sorry for the home side.

Wollongong Macedonia matched the visitors stride for stride. Ably led by the ex-Demon, Peter Willis, the home side looked the goods despite falling behind to a good goal from Grant Lee in the 11th minute.

In fact Wollongong made some inroads and threatened Watson on numerous occasions scoring a deserved goal close to half time through Allport.

With the scores level at 1-1 neither side was able to penetrate until late in the game when Maier struck for the visitors. It was that kind of a goal that could separate two well matched teams and a credit to Maier for his audacious attempt.

Kurt Reynolds, Watson, Paul Kay and Lee were amongst the best for the visitors while Willis, Campbell and Ruskin led the charge for the locals with Milenkovski showing a pair of safe hands in goal.

WOLLONGONG MACE: Milenkovski, Muhlbauer, Campbell, Ruskin, Sweeney (Giral-di), Dalkovski, Willis, Allport, Gardiner, Brown, Bonetic.

BLACKTOWN: Watson, Sterrey (Byrne 55th), Reynolds, Maier, Northam, Kay, Denyer, Jeffery, Van Blerk, Cotton (Sandy 46th), Lee.



LES SCHEINFLUG

STATE LEAGUE DIV 1 GR 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	10	8	1	1	29	6	17
Melita Eagles	10	5	3	2	20	12	13
Canberra Griffins	9	5	3	1	13	7	13
Wollongong City	10	6	1	3	21	16	13
Rockdale Ilinden	10	4	2	4	15	10	10
Ku-Ring-Gai	10	3	4	3	13	14	10
Manly Warringah	10	5	0	5	10	14	10
Newcastle Rosebud	10	4	1	5	17	19	9
Sutherland Shire	10	2	5	3	10	14	9
Canterbury M'ville Oly.	10	2	4	4	15	21	8
Uruguayan Penrith	10	3	2	5	19	20	8
Warringah F/Water	10	3	0	7	10	18	6
W'gong Macedonia	10	2	2	6	10	19	6
Inter Monaro	9	2	2	5	13	25	6

KU-RING-GAI 1 (Bass) **SUTHERLAND** 1 (Meades)
INTER 1 (Ambrasino) **NEWCASTLE** 1 (McGuiness)
MANLY 0 **WARRINGAH** 2 (Radosavljevic, Fagan)
URUG PENRITH 0 **CANBERRA** 1 (Gonzales)
ROCKDALE 6 (Genovese 2, Bedoni 2, Bottalico, Mitrevski pen) **CANTERBURY** 0
WOLLONGONG MACE 1 (P. Giral-di) **BLACKTOWN** 2 (Lee, Maier)
MELITA 2 (Rodrigues, Callanan) **WOLLONGONG CITY** 1 (R. Giral-di)

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TEST FOR GROUND CAPACITY

BLACKTOWN City Demons will face Melita Eagles at the Gabbie next Sunday in a game destined to fill the ground to capacity.

The runaway leaders are well placed for next Sunday's encounter. Four points adrift of Melita, Canberra and Wollongong, Blacktown City can afford to sit back and rely on an error by the Eagles.

In a match Melita must win to keep in touch I fear the visitors will expose its youthful backline to the speed and tenacity of Van Blerk, Lee and Thorntwaite and that could well decide the

issue.

Newcastle should account for faltering Manly Warringah at Adamstown on Saturday, while Wollongong City will have to struggle hard and long to overcome Ku-Ring-Gai.

Sutherland will return to the winning circle at the expense of Inter Monaro at Seymour Shaw despite some encouraging results by the Queenbeyan outfit lately.

Canberra City will have its own problems at

Bruce with Rockdale Ilinden hitting its straps at the right time of the season.

Palacios will find Vlado Tortevski more than a match while Genovese could provide the sparks to damage Canberra's wires.

Canterbury will have to forget last Sunday's drubbing if it is to improve against Wollongong Macedonia, but the visitors will have its own problems. It would surprise to see either win.

Warringah Freshwater will be looking for its first home win of the season against Uruguayan Penrith with both sides desperate to improve their standing on the table.

Uruguayan Penrith has the ingredients to win but much will depend on the clash between the likes of Campbell, Knight and De Ceglie versus Gonzales, Bradley and Genc.

BERRIES ARE HIT FOR SIX!

CANTERBURY Marrickville suffered its most humiliating defeat to date at the hands of Rockdale Ilinden with the home side putting six past goalkeeper Chris Hummell.

For the best part of the first half it looked as if neither side would venture far and goals would be hard to come by. Then came an unusual error by Hummell and the game took a new and decisive turn.

A long clearance by Jeff Wilson was chased by Bruno Bedoni but Hummell was quick to intercept and collect. However he failed to hold onto the ball and it fell to the feet of Bedoni who rushed around the keeper to score.

Bedoni got his second goal six minutes into the second half then proceeded with a series of misses before being replaced in the 83rd by Alex Bottalico.

An avalanche of goals came in the space of 15 minutes with number three being posted in the 70th by Tony Genovese.

Two minutes later Vlado Tortevski fed Genovese a superb

through ball and Rockdale's speedy striker chipped the advancing keeper to make it 4-0.

In the 76th Vasko Mitrevski scored from the resultant penalty spot.

Alex Bottalico was on the park for only two minutes as Jimmy Ristevski broke through to find some space on the left. His cross was neatly tucked away by Bottalico.

co for the final scoreline.

It was difficult to find the best amongst this fast and furious Rockdale side.

ROCKDALE: Hummell, Antonopoulos, Redman, Vendarakis, Mickovski, Borges, Stamos, Kelogeras, Arambasic, George, Andromidas.

CANTERBURY: Barker, Mitrevski, Pilovski, J. Wilson, Boogaard, Darlington (73rd D. Wilson), Tortevski, Nastoski, Bedoni (83rd Bottalico), Genovese, Ristevski.

LEAVE MIRKO ALONE!

WARRINGAH Freshwater president, Ziv Naprta, was livid with anger following reports of player poaching tactics, following his team's emphatic 2-0 win over Manly Warringah at Cromer Park.

Mr Naprta was highly critical of the tactics employed by an NSL club and another State League club in attempting to lure Mirko Radosavljevic away from Warringah.

"If they wish to have our player, they must approach the club for permission to deal with him," said an angry Naprta.

"To say that it is unethical, under-handed and in poor taste is to describe it aptly."

Radosavljevic, ex-

Rad Belgrade, laid the foundation for his side's win with a superb volley in the 18th minute.

It was during this period that the same player showed command of his area to deny the visitors any room and combine skillfully with Allan Dean to surge forward creating problems for the Sea Eagles.

Stuart Porter was another player who shone for the visitors. He is on loan from St George and he made

sure the \$1000 invested in him by Warringah was well spent money.

Paul Fagan and Jimmy Campbell made the difference in midfield with Fagan adding his name to the scoresheet early in the 47th minute.

WARRINGAH: Warren, Gillan (Watt 75th), Dean, Radosavljevic, Drilene, Fagan, Campbell, De Ceglie, Corrigan, Porter, Giannone (Roche 85th).

MANLY: Tingle, Dennis, Mangham, Williamson, Robin, Etherington, Juergens, Carrick, Cimarosti, Stuart, Barker (Rimmer 85th).

NSW THIRD DIVISION

THE match of the round between University of NSW and West United produced a thriller which could have gone either way.

West grabbed the lead after 15 minutes through a spectacular volley and maintained it till half-time.

However University clawed their way back and it was no surprise when Osborne equalised with a header in the 55th minute.

A Paul Benecke header 10 minutes later brought about a penalty which was converted by Lilge to put them 2-1 up.

Despite enterprising football from both sides there was to be no further score.

For Wests Falzon had

an outstanding game while Uni were again best served by Benecke.

One of the best matches produced a 2-all draw between Concordia and Bondi Marine.

After a scoreless first half Concordia took the lead in the 55th minute from a penalty by Steve Parkinson and went two-up 10 minutes later after a goalmouth scramble.

Bondi ground away relentlessly and were rewarded with a great goal by Bobby Farthing.

With 30 seconds left Bondi grabbed the equaliser through Danny

Segreto.

The local derby between Rooty Hill and Mount Druitt was a gripping encounter despite the 0-0 scoreline.

Mount tested Hill's young 17-year-old goalkeeper Scott Bowen in the opening minutes and midway through the first half had shots cleared off the line by Ken Lindsay and Terry Bertram.

At the other end Kevin Farrer produced his usual high standard in goal to deny Robert Guy and Terry Jones at point blank range.



BILL PILOVSKI (Canterbury)



JIM RISTEVSKI (Canterbury)

SECOND DIV CLASSY

BLACKTOWN United and Kingsford Hellenic played their match at a fairly brisk pace with the result being a game of good one and two touch Soccer.

Kingsford broke the deadlock after about 20 minutes with Bernie Godzik scoring after some scrappy defence by Blacktown.

Blacktown equalised after about 35 minutes through a Micky Delf penalty given for handball.

The second half saw both teams continuing where they left off with some good one and two touch Soccer and also continuing with the brisk pace.

Blacktown finally broke the deadlock with 25 minutes of the game remaining when Joe Ramisch capitalised on some sloppy defence by Kingsford firing the ball past the keeper and making the score 2-1.

Blacktown continued to put pressure on the Kingsford goal and could have gone 3-1 up through Colin Clark whose shot was saved by the keeper.

A very entertaining

game of soccer by both teams with the final score Blacktown United 2 Kingsford Hellenic 1.

TOP SCORERS

- 6: Giraldi, Easthorpe (WC)
- 5: Van Blerk, Kay, Reynolds (BC), A. Reis (CG), Jeffery (K)
- 4: Andromidas (CM), Cimarosti (MW), Callanan, Vial (ME), Penfold, Drysdale (N), Batten, Woods, McKie (U)

State Bank SOCCER LEAGUE

SATURDAY 23rd MAY STATE BANK SOCCER LEAGUE
Newcastle-Rosebud Vs Manly Warringah Adamstown Oval

2ND DIVISION

Kingsford Hellenic
Nth Syd Artamon
Bathurst 75

Vs Campbelltown City
Vs SSC Yugal
Vs Blacktown United

Kensington Pk
Artamon Res
Proctor Park

3RD DIVISION

Bondi Marine
Canterbury Dist
King Tomislav

Vs Moorebank
Vs Nth Ryde RSL
Vs Port Hacking

Waverley Oval
Blick Oval
Croatian S.C.

SUNDAY 24th MAY

Wollongong City
Sutherland
Warringah F/Water
Canberra City
Cant M'ville Oly
Blacktown City

STATE BANK SOCCER LEAGUE

Vs Ku-ring-gal
Vs Inter Monaro
Vs Uruguayan Penrith
Vs Rockdale Ilinden
Vs Wollongong Mac
Vs Melita Eagles

Wollongong S/G
Seymour Shaw Pk
Graham Res
Bruce Stad
Arlington Oval
Gabbie Stad

2ND DIVISION

Avala
Gladesville Hby
Nth Bankstown
Polonia

Vs Queens Park
Vs Sydney Maccabi
Vs Dee Why Swans
Vs Fairy Meadow

Knight Park No.4
Pioneer Park
Potts Park
Chopin Park

3RD DIVISION

Granville Chile
Rooty Hill
Campbelltown Gun
Uni. of NSW

Vs Mt Druitt
Vs Baulkham Hills
Vs West United
Vs Concordia

Garside Park
Cawarra Park
Bensley Road SG
Little Bay

THIS WEEKS MATCHES



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INTER: Maricic, Domazetovich, Gagetti, Monterosso, Titiles, Ambrosino, Perinovic, Panbianco (Taglieri 84th), Valeri (Colbertal 48th), Fernandez Jnr, Giampaolo.

NEWCASTLE: Grilla, Milosevic, M Drysdale, Roberts, McGuinness, Calsley, Gresham, N Drysdale, Cavanah, Balnd, Penfold.

HILL TO GET MUCH BETTER

EARLY defensive errors cost Box Hill victory against Fawcner on Sunday when it was defeated 2-1.

Box Hill is looking increasingly cohesive as the season progresses and was strengthened on Sunday by the appearance of new Scottish recruit Stewart MacArthur.

Fawcner opened the scoring in the 17th minute when Ged Stenson hit the ball to Bruno Cozzella on the left.

Cozzella centred it to Ian Tuffield who chested the ball down and slammed it

past keeper John McKinlay from inside the box.

Then 20 minutes later Dean Hennessey took a quick free kick which was intercepted by Cozzella on the left. Cozzella knocked it to Ged Stenson who pushed it on to Dougie Brown.

Brown finished off the move with a left-foot shot which went in off the post.

George Murray's Hill-men came back strongly in the second half and were rewarded for their efforts in the 73rd minute when a corner from Campbell was headed on by Hennessey to Damian Mori who buried it at the far post.

Though the equaliser never came, Murray felt it was one of his side's best effort's this year.

BOX HILL: McKinlay, McMillan (McMorrow h.t.), Hennessey, Davidson, Roodhouse, MacArthur, Taylor, Burton, Campbell, Brimmer, Azzopardi (Mori 55th).
FAWKNER: Wilson, Chivell, Farla, Schipano, Walsh, Sabbatino, Verecchia Inj. (Bordignon 15th), Tuffield, Stenson, Cozzella, O'Brien.

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POLONIA CLING TO TOP SPOT

POLONIA cling to top spot on the Buffalo State League with a 0-0 draw with St. Albans at the weekend.

Closest rival Green Gully shifted into second place on goal-difference after a 3-0 victory at Northcote that sent the home team back to the bottom of the table.

Box Hill coach George Murray threw his new Scottish import Stewart MacArthur in at the deep end. MacArthur arrived in Australia on Saturday and played against Fawcner on Sunday.

"I didn't have any choice," explained Murray. "I had to play him."

Western Suburbs' English import Sammy Pierce arrived on Wednesday, trained with Jim Condill's team on Thursday and was

in the side on Sunday against Frankston Pines.

Unfortunately for the Scot and the Englishman, both ended up on the losing end in their debuts.

Thomastown exhibited its new signing from Canberra City, John Nicolaides. Nicolaides has spent the last two seasons playing in the NSL and cost Thomastown \$6,000.

Thomastown recently spent \$4,500 snaring Victor Cristaldo from Melbourne Croatia.

Meanwhile, the AIS continued on its winning way with a 4-1 victory over Caulfield in Canberra and currently has a goal difference of 33-3.



JOHN MANGAN'S
overview of the
Victorian State
League matches

GULLY TOO STRONG

DESPITE conceding two goals after 16 minutes Northcote made a game of it against title favourite Green Gully only to lose 3-0.

The result moved Gully to equal top with Polonia on 17 points while Northcote fell to bottom place on goal difference.

Gully's first goal came in the 11th minute when Joe Sweeney rounded the keeper to score from an acute angle.

Five minutes later Sweeney's shot hit the crossbar and went in to give his team a formidable lead.

Northcote coach, Frank Munro successfully motivated his men at halftime and they were far more impressive after the break.

Chris Bekiaris, Kenny Drakeford and Juan Toro all came close to scoring but it was Gully's Joe O'Donnell who wrapped up the game when he chipped in from a Sweeney pass.

NORTHCOTE: Turudis, Leonardos (Stiladis 41st), Kouremenos, Cutler, Patinotis, Taangas (Small 46th), Toro, Drakeford, Gynopoulos, Bekiaris, Romero.

GREEN GULLY: Denys, McLelland, Carter, Grimaud, Hogben, O'Donnell, Quigley, Douglas (sent off 81st), Zemunik, Sweeney, Cumming.

NEW SIGNING NOT ENOUGH

THOMASTOWN'S hot new recruit John Nicolaides from Canberra City was not enough to swing the game against Croydon which ended in a 1-1 draw.

In fact, it was Croydon's recent signing, Tony Redmond, who stole the early limelight when he put his team ahead in the 15th minute.

The former Melbourne Croatia player netted in spectacular fashion when Graham French let a through ball run past him and into the path of Redmond who chipped the keeper Mauro Raponi from the edge of the area.

But Kevin Arcoraci and Tony Cosentino closed down on the Croydon front-runners French and Dave Brogan and denied them further opportunities to score.

With five minutes to go to halftime Croydon cleared a Thomastown corner which was met by Cosentino on the halfway line.

With the Croydon defence moving up Cosentino

knocked the ball back into attack immediately and striker Bobby McGuinness found himself played outside by French.

McGuinness lobbed the ball over the keeper Keith Waterman to put Mike Lynn's side back on level terms.

While Gary Cole starred in Croydon's midfield, Thomastown coach Mike Lynn was happy with the performance of his new players Nicolaides and Victor Cristaldo and is looking to be at full strength next week with the return of Andy McMillan and Russell Athersych when his side plays Broadmeadows.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi, Jankulovski, Arcoraci, Higgins, Cosentino, diMartino, Cristaldo, Nicolaides, Coyle, Carfora, McGuinness.

CROYDON: Waterman, M.Brown, O'Reilly, Brack, Beech, J.Nelson, Cole, Redmond, Livingstone, French, Brogan.

GREEN GULLY GIVE CHASE



GREEN GULLY's Colin Quigley goes for a skate as they win at Northcote.

EASY WIN IS NOT GOOD

INSTITUTE coach Ron Smith was disappointed with his team's efforts on Saturday night inspired of a 4-1 victory over title challenger Caulfield.

A full strength Caulfield team travelled up to Canberra to play at Bruce Stadium in front of a crowd of almost 1,000.

Though the AIS has yet to lose a game this season, home fans had to wait until the 35th minute for Jason Polak to break the deadlock with a low skidding shot from 22m that gave Caulfield keeper Robert Madjer no chance.

Four minutes later John Koch latched onto a loose backpass to shoot the Institute into a 2-0 lead.

Koch was in the action again five minutes into the second half when he received the ball from David Healy on the left. He swept forward taking the ball into Caulfield's penalty area and finished a fine run with a thundering shot which Madjer managed to block.

Unfortunately for the keeper the ball rebounded to Koch who was following up and slotted the ball in from a narrow angle.

Koch could have notched up his hat-trick in the 63rd minute when he rose to head a Paul Foster cross, but his header was weak. Dean Nicolaou weaved his way through the ensuing goalmouth scramble to score the Institute's fourth.

The game took a bizarre

twist in the final 10 minutes which saw Caulfield reduced to 10 men when John Bitsonis was injured after coach Takis Svingos had used both his substitutes. Two minutes later the Melbourne side was reduced to nine men when Jim Sahinidis managed to get himself sent off for something he said.

Instead of dominating this spell the AIS allowed Caulfield to score a consolation goal when substitute Horvath fell over and was dispossessed allowing Xynas to score.

Smith was disappointed with his side's performance in that late spell saying that it was the first time this season that the team had eased up during a game and started doing daft things.

CAULFIELD: Madjer, Bitsonis (80th), Michell, Harris, Koutouris, Theoharous, Sahinidis (sent off 82nd), Hamakiotis, Theodoropoulos Xynas h.t., Griffin, Abra Tzitzirlas 63rd).

FURTHER VSL REPORTS
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STATE LEAGUE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maribymong	11	7	2	1	23	12
Green Gully	11	6	5	0	17	9
Fawcner	10	6	3	1	16	8
St. Albans	10	5	3	2	16	10
Caulfield City	10	5	3	2	10	7
Oakleigh	10	4	2	4	19	17
Western Suburbs	11	4	2	5	15	14
Morwell Falcons	9	2	5	2	8	7
Box Hill	11	2	5	4	11	9
Springvale City	10	2	4	4	11	13
Frankston Pines	10	3	2	5	15	9
Thomastown	10	3	2	5	8	16
Croydon City	11	1	5	7	15	7
Northcote City	10	2	1	7	6	20
Broadmeadows	9	1	1	7	10	18

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ROBBIE CULLEN IS TOP TEAM MAN IN BRUNSWICK JUVE LINE-UP

BY GREG BLAKE

IT has been a slow transition — indeed the changes in Robbie Cullen's game could almost have gone unnoticed if you weren't a keen follower of the player.

The Brunswick Juventus midfielder, almost an integral part of the engine room these days, is now the complete team player.

Just over three years and two coaches since he joined Juventus Cullen now says he wouldn't even be sure he could play as an out-and-out winger.

And yet it was as a winger, initially with Sunshine and later with Preston, that the diminutive little Scot made his name.

What a winger little 'Tiger' Cullen was — fiercely determined, skilled, imaginative and always prepared to take on players with one of his many jinking runs into the opponents half.

Cullen, the 'Tiger' and the eye-catcher, is no more.

Now it's Cullen the team man, the energetic ball winner and speedy supplier of balls to his front men.

Mind you, given half the chance, as he was against Marconi on the opening day of the season, and the Cullen of old is away and flying on a couple of his magical runs, impishly darting past stunned defenders.

But for him the day of the winger is over and in retrospect he is pleased at having adapted his game to suit both his recent Juventus coaches John Margaritis and Len McKendry.

Instinctive

"Before coming to Brunswick I'd always played on instinct as a winger," Cullen told me.

"John Margaritis was coach at the time and he told me the day of the winger was finished and that he wanted me to play midfield, a role I didn't feel I could fit into.

"I spent the best part of a year arguing the point with John but in the end I had to accept it.

"It probably hasn't done my own reputation any good but I had to adapt to that style.

"I think it's a little disappointing not seeing wingers in the game but really the game isn't much fun any more, it's a job and there is pressure on the coaches.

"They have to have their teams play more protectively.

"It's a team game and, to be honest, since I've joined Juventus and changed my game I've been able to enjoy team success.

"And I try to respect my coaches — if the club appoints a coach then I try to go along, show respect and do what he says."

Glasgow-born Cullen first played in Australia back in 1976 when he joined George Cross, then in the Victorian State League, as a fresh 18 year old.

He had been recommended to that club and he reached our shores with little knowledge of the local scene.

"Our first training night was at Olympic Park and when I was told this was our home ground I thought 'My God'," Cullen laughed.

"It didn't take long to come back to earth soon after when George Cross

started to visit some of the other State League grounds.

"But I enjoyed my time there. We had four other new players from Britain that first year and under Billy Wilkinson we won the league and the Dockerty Cup in 1977."

Cullen's transfer from that club came after a controversial two year suspension the 'Tiger' earned at the hands of the VSF Tribunal.

At the insistence of the club he approached a solicitor to appeal against the sentence but once proceedings were underway George Cross decided Cullen, not themselves, was responsible to meet the legal costs.

Cullen, after some 22 games on the sidelines, had no cash to meet costs and the solicitor agreed that the club was liable to meet the costs.

Eventually a deal was set-up whereby Cullen was transferred to Preston Make-donia and part of the transfer fee was used by George Cross to pay the outstanding legal fees.

Opportunity

Preston gave Cullen the chance to strut his stuff in the NSL after two seasons of State League success as Preston won the league under Tony Vrzina in 1980.

At one stage Cullen nearly joined Heidelberg to kick off his NSL career but eventually, with Preston, Cullen made his national league debut in 1981.

The early days of NSL were exciting for player and club but Cullen's time at Preston was to end on a sour note.

"In the end I was disappointed at the way Preston operated," Cullen explained.

"Jeff Faulkner (now at Sunshine) was a very close friend of mine and he wasn't, in my opinion, getting much of a chance with the first team.

"He should have been in but instead he and a few other players we just handed letters saying they were no longer required and from that time on would have to train the youth team.

"They received shocking treatment and I eventually became disillusioned and very bitter about it.

"At the time I had problems of my own and eventually I lost all interest.

"Before the 1983 season the president John Branov told me 'to get a grip on myself' and I started the season to see out my contract.

"Then I got one of the no longer required letters, saying it was because I intended going home to Scotland.

"If they'd said it was because I wasn't playing well enough I'd have said OK but I was taken out of the first team and a \$12,000 fee was placed on my head.

"Then the club turned around and asked me to play in the youth team to help stop them being relegated.

"In the end I did but only because Frank McAleer was in charge and he convinced

me to do it for me and not for the club — and it saw me through my contract."

Cullen flew back to Scotland at the end of that season and spent 10 months away from his adopted home before returning on the eve of the 1984 season.

Branov, convinced Cullen had 'settled down' after getting married, tried to convince him to return to Conner Reserve.

"I'd lost respect for too many people there to return," Cullen explains.

"That's when I joined Brunswick.

"Luckily enough I had joined another club with great players and coaches and there has always been a great rapport between the people there."

It was Cullen's best-ever career move, even if it did mean losing the flying winger tag which had been his trademark.

The highlight obviously being the 1985 Australian championship win which, he says, was "a great experience".

"But we still didn't win the league that year so it was good to come back the next season and finish top of the league to win the unofficial championship," Cullen added.

1987 hasn't started as well as Cullen and Brunswick might have liked but the 'Tiger' still believes the club has the goods to do the job.

"I feel we'll do really well if we can get a little more consistent.

"We need everyone sticking their jobs as we did against Marconi and if we do that we'll finish the best of the Melbourne teams at least.

"I think we will be in the finals and if we can just take our chances we could go all the way," Cullen said.

AIS COACH AT FRANKSTON

THE Australian Institute of Sport Soccer team travelled to Victoria 24 hours early for its recent challenge series game against Frankston Pines in order to carry on some valuable public relations work in the southern Melbourne suburb.

Coach Ron Smith said: "The club asked us to come down on the Saturday in order to do some coaching with the local kids and we were happy to oblige.

"Part of the AIS Soccer course involves putting the players through Level 2 of the coaching scheme, so any practice they get is helpful."

There isn't an inch of cover or a single seat at Schintler. It's about as comfortable as a prisoner-of-war camp, but it isn't alone, of course. Sunshine George Cross's



ROBBIE CULLEN . . . he joined the workers.

PUT THEM . . . IN JAIL

BY LES SHORROCK

LAST week's outrageous behaviour by a bunch of society's misfits claiming to be Croatia supporters completely overshadowed the real Soccer news, which was that Footscray had performed valiantly to hold at bay the League leaders.

It also completely blanked out the news that Melbourne Croatia had redeemed itself in Sydney to the extent of taking two points from Marconi.

It is shocking to think that a mob of unruly youngsters numbering no more than about 60, and according to police, of an average of 17 years, could so terrorise a crowd of about 2,500 and get away with it.

THEY SHOULD ALL BE IN JAIL TODAY.

The conference called at short notice by the NSL and VSF the day after merely swept the dirt under the carpet by whitewashing the home club Footscray, and issuing a statement that virtually amounted to nothing more than a tut-tut.

Just how much longer is this head-in-the-sand approach going to continue?

League Chairman Sam Papasavas wants to know why crowds are down in Melbourne.

That's a laugh. Anti-quated, completely unsuitable, uncomfortable and totally lacking in security arenas like Schintler Reserve will eventually drive all decent fans away from the game.

There isn't an inch of cover or a single seat at Schintler. It's about as comfortable as a prisoner-of-war camp, but it isn't alone, of course. Sunshine George Cross's

ground isn't much better.

NO EXAGGERATION

In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that only Middle Park and Olympic Park are suitable for National League Soccer in Melbourne, whilst Heidelberg's Olympic Village has the potential to become the best of all, if the club can ever afford to carry out the work.

But it's security that matters and there is none at Schintler, as the mob amply demonstrated last week. They just strolled down the road from Footscray and walked straight into the ground without paying by climbing the railway fence and walking along the embankment, amusing themselves on the way by stoning the parked cars below.

Once in the ground they seemed to be contained by police reinforcements hurriedly called in, but they were able, at half-time, to run half-way round the ground to spit at the players and Footscray supporters at the race.

Then it was back to the railway end to throw stones at Footscray goalkeeper Zoran Nikitovic.

It was all premeditated. TV stations in Melbourne were tipped off in advance and were all there, so that by Monday night we had full coverage of the brawling in the

carpark, of course, not the Soccer.

Why wasn't it anticipated by the authorities. Didn't they have the wit to work out that there would be trouble, even though Melbourne Croatia was out of town?

It wasn't even as if it hadn't happened before. Last July, the same idiots went on the rampage after Footscray had beaten Melbourne Croatia 3-0 in the League. On the way out they vandalised cars — mine amongst them.

Only two months ago, the Croatia mob fought a running battle with the Hellas Hooligans in the carpark between the two Olympic Park grounds after the Buffalo Cup-Final.

HOONS

Windows were smashed, the South Melbourne bus was attacked and cards vandalised. But nothing was done about it.

These hoons are known to the police, and now the police have photographs which can identify them. One of the ringleaders is a son of an ex-official of Croatia, who has been in trouble with the police many times before because of his behaviour.

But he's still at it. How much longer, can I ask the VSF and NSL, is this going to go on? Until someone is killed or

seriously wounded?

Mr Papasavas, until grounds are made safe and comfortable the crowds will continue to drop.

Imagine taking your wife and kids to a game between Footscray and Croatia, at Schintler — you'd have to have your head read.

On another note, it's sad to have to write that the intensity of coaching a club as volatile as Melbourne Croatia has got to Terry Hennessey, who is a sick man, recuperating at home.

It wasn't just a series of poor results that brought that about either. His wife says that he has had threatening and abusive phone calls that finally made his position unbearable.

Where is our game heading when this sort of thing can happen? Hennessey was a famous player in his hey-day planning for and captaining Birmingham, Nottingham Forest and Derby County as well as for Wales.

Before he came to Australia he was voted top coach in North America, after his success with Tulsa Rough-necks.

Now he feels he wants nothing more to do with the game.

This is the damage the mindless minority is inflicting on the game.

Can we stop them before they wreck it?



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REX Leighton is back refereeing Illawarra Premier League games after a spell out of the game.

Leighton is well known in Sydney and regularly ran lines for NSL games over a period of two years before a foot injury put him out of action.

He was highly rated on his handling of State League matches and will certainly be an asset to the Illawarra ranks this season.

STRANGE things happen in Illawarra Soccer. When Wollongong City travelled to

Seymour Shaw Park to play Sutherland a leading ISA administrator was among the Wolves' supporters.

The same day Port Kembla met Bulli in the match of the round at Wetherall Park.

Our administrator decided to make the long trip north rather than go "just up the road" to watch the district match.

The Wolves must be a bigger attraction than we thought.

week against Adelaide City.

After an accidental clash with home striker Joe Mullen the big man was down, and almost out following damage to his mouth.

But not only did he get back to his feet, but he played on daubing his bleeding mouth, and almost pulled off the winning, and only goal, when he struck the home bar.

THIS is a crucial week for Neville Flounders.

The big defender from Adelaide City went into hospital last week for a knee con-

struction job, after limping on the sidelines for four weeks, and will find out just how bad the injury is, and if it can be completely cured.

He was resigned to missing the rest of the season, but at the time of going to press he was hopeful of making it back at least for the play-off.

PETER Jaksa, Adelaide Hellas coach, may turn to Dynamo Zagreb and Red Star for players to get his team back into the NSL.

"I have contacts with these clubs and

if we can't find a two or three players here we may have to look overseas," said Jaksa, who has been given the go-ahead to bolster his team in preparation for a possible promotion play-off campaign at the end of the State league season.

He has already announced he would like to sign former Soccerroo midfielder Kenny Murphy from South Melbourne, and has disgruntled Chris Manou to trade with Footscray, who has had the big midfielder in training.

YOU can't blame players for making as much as they can out of the game, but things are being pushed a bit too far by their agents when it comes to Australia.

Manchester United's Bryan Robson was offered a newspaper interview in return for a fee of \$500!

WE find it amusing to read that the NSL was holding an investigation into the brawls at the Footscray-Sydney Croatia match.

Everyone in Soccer knows it was political, and nothing to do with the game.

To try and equate it with what happens in England where the hooligans reign, is ludicrous, and for the NSL officials to say they will stamp out the violence before it reaches the English proportions is also ludicrous.

Put the same people in any setting, and the result will be the same.

WELCOME

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Sydney Branch takes pleasure in welcoming the Southern and Eastern SFA to the Metropolitan championships.

Connell's top credentials

FROM MIDDLESBROUGH AND ABERDEEN TO JUVENTUS-PIONEER HOBART

BY WALTER PLESS

JUVENTUS-Pioneer's new goalkeeper, 24-year-old Neil Connell, has already gained a tremendous amount of experience in international Soccer

despite his youth and promises to be a valuable asset to the local game.

Born in Aberdeen, Connell signed for English League club Middlesbrough when he was

15 and played for the club for six years.

When the club was relegated to the Second Division, he returned to Aberdeen to play for the famous local club in the Scottish First Division.

He then moved to South Africa where he played for Western Tiggers, a first division club

based in Johannesburg and coached by former England, Arsenal and Stoke City star, George Eastham.

"Soccer in South Africa is of a very good standard," Connell said. "It's multi-racial, although it is predominantly a black sport."

"The political situation there is unfortunate in that, otherwise, on an international level, they could compete quite well."

"The facilities out there are fantastic and second to none."

Connell holds both the English FA and Scottish FA senior coaching badges and he came to Tasmania to coach and to gain further experience as a player.

"I came here to get experience, not only as a player, but to become in-

involved in a bit of coaching, too," he said.

"I must say the game here is different, but I hope I can use my experience to help the younger players come on."

"I'm enjoying it so far and I'm being well looked after by Juventus."

"From what I've seen so far, I am, without question, with the best club in Tasmania."

In his first few weeks in the State, Connell has already won a cup winner's medal, although he missed the final because of injury, and he has gained selection in the Southern squad.

At that rate, he can surely look forward to a very satisfying and fruitful time in Tasmania with his new club.



"You've two minutes to score the winner or you'll be looking for a new club."

Salt of the earth

A GOOD YOUTH COACH

RON Greenwood the former England and West Ham manager once wrote that one of the best paid men in the club — even the best — should be the youth coach.

Understandable, this, if one considers that the youth coach's job is one of investment. His responsibility is the future.

Sadly in Australia it is my belief that this position generally is not given the degree of importance it deserves.

Because of this the club suffers in the long term and worst than this talented young players fail to cope with the transition period from junior to youth to senior Soccer.

There are some national league coaches who do not have a say in the choice of the youth team coach.

The job is given to a club favourite, a committee-men's friend or a selection is made which will be popular with the members.

It is not a job for a faithful Tom, Dick or Harry or for somebody who is cutting his teeth.

A learner teaching learners is not a sound idea. But this is what happens at many clubs and it has ruined many promising youngsters.

Clubs haven't got the foresight or maybe in some cases the money to employ good, experienced men at this level. But it is poor husbandry and, in the end, they and Australian Soccer are the losers.

I sometimes wonder if some of our National League clubs look at the National Youth League with a philosophy of "providing Soccer for boys and not boys for Soccer".

In lower leagues the way is often to provide a sound development system through the reserves competition.



BY TIM WHITE
Victorian State
Director of
Coaching

To do this more attention should be given to providing opportunity for players on the way up rather than those on the way down.

Methodology

I am not advocating the immediate demise of all experienced players from the club, but a rather more selective method of deciding which one can still be of value to the development process.

Believe it or not there are clubs who still give players a game because of amount of revenue they provide for the club in the social club.

It is fascinating to listen to club administrators supporters and or parents recounting the success or otherwise of the youth teams at the end of a national youth league season.

Generally the measure is the position the team finishes in the league. But how many youth league winners had players who have progressed to the senior squad.

One only need to look at the transfer market at the beginning of the season and the success or otherwise of some clubs development programmes can be seen.

In order to fulfil his potential a young player must progress through various phases of development.

1. The turn on (up to 8 years)
2. The romance (9 to 12 years)
3. The commitment (13 to 16 years)
4. The turn off (16+ years)

The 16 to 18 years period in a young player's life can be critical. Many stop playing, others struggle on but fail to achieve their aspirations, some are successful and satisfy the expectations of themselves, their coach and the community. The turn off can be the result of various influences:

- Unrealistic expectations
- Other attractions (personal, education, sporting)
- Lack of success
- Injuries
- Shortage of playing opportunities

- Overplaying
- Poor leadership
- Peer group pressure
- 5. Fulfilment (16+ years)

The aim of the youth coach should be to produce:

- a) Thinking, imaginative players
- b) Self reliant, self motivating players
- c) Players with a discerning awareness of the games principles and tactics
- d) A healthy attitude towards competition
- e) Players who not only conform to the rules of the game but to the spirit of the game
- f) Effective athletic performers
- g) Skills which provide the optimistic answers to the games problems

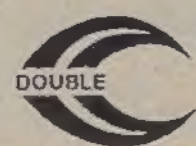
For players to fulfil the above expectations clubs must at least try to provide a qualified experienced youth coach for this most important position.

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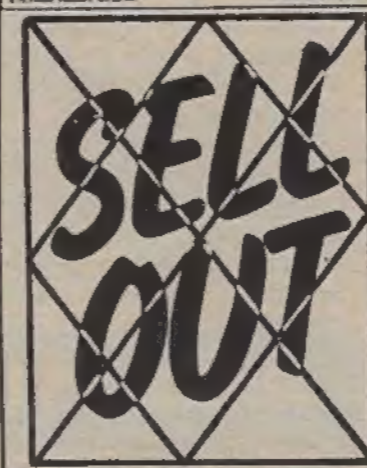
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Sydney Croatia — take a bow . . .

THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING ABOUT THE JONES BOY

MARK JONES is the twenty year old Sydney Croatia midfielder who has impressed one and all with his progress with the current WENSL leaders.

And no-one is happier than Jones' player coach, Vedran Rozic, who is over the moon about the dramatic development of the former Novocastrian Young Socceroo.

"Mark's performance with us this year has really surprised me," says Rozic of the young midfielder who has scored four times this year.

"I really didn't expect so much so soon from him.

"In the off-season we had bought Ray Vlietstra from Wollongong for Mark's central defending position, and we saw Mark as working his way into the team in some other position.

"What impressed me about Mark and prompted us to sign him was his goal scoring ability.

"I didn't see him that much with Newcastle but was impressed with the eight goals he scored in the second half of the championship."

"In pre-season training we tried him in midfield and the spot has been his ever since."

Rozic sees Jones' greatest asset as "his nose for goals".

On the few occasions I have seen Jones in action I must say it is certainly one of his invaluable skills.

His goal which won the pre-season State Bank Cup or the one that wrapped up the home match against South Melbourne were two examples of Jones drifting into goal-scoring situations.

Few though could have headed home that goal against South Melbourne in the manner of young Jones.

His heading ability, particularly in goal-scoring situations, is another of his better attributes, although Jones himself says that he is not

happy with his heading in general play at the moment.

Amazingly it has only been in recent times that he has caught attention for representative selection.

Up till his selection for the Young Socceroos in 1985 Jones only enjoyed one season as a Northern NSW rep (at under 18 level) again indicating, for those who doubt it, the immense amount of talent coming out of the Newcastle region

Toronto Lad

His junior days were spent with the Toronto Awaba club from the under 6 to under 16 level.

He "played up front" in those days and made his first team debut for Toronto Awaba at the ripe old age of 17.

Then it was on to the Newcastle KB youth team, then the first team with KB and subsequently Newcastle Rosebud.

Crammed in between was his Young Socceroo appearances in the Soviet Union in 1985 where he was rated one of Australia's best performers.

"It was a thrill to be picked for Australia and a shame that we didn't go on when we had it won in that final qualification game with Nigeria," says Jones of an experience that was tremendous football-wise but "shocking in other respects".

When Newcastle said goodbye to the National League, Jones sought greener pastures.

And there was plenty of them — Sydney City, Apia-Leichhardt, St George and Sydney Croatia.



MARK JONES . . . nose for goals.

It is no coincidence that four of the wisest club coaches — Thomson, Rasic, Arok and Rozic were all chasing the youngster.

It was finally a toss up between Apia and Sydney Croatia.

For Jones it was Sydney Croatia "because they had already signed the players they said they were going to sign."

Newcastle Home

It is an understatement to say Jones has no regrets about the move even though his second year physical education studies

keep him domiciled in Newcastle.

He travels three times a week for training down from his home town and at weekends joins Manis Lamond and Gus Cerro in staying over at the Croatian Club's private motel in Punchbowl.

Not unnaturally he sees Croatia having a "great chance" this year and would like to contribute to that effort.

Longer, and perhaps shorter term realisable goals should he maintain his present rate of development, include a place in the Socceroo team and a professional physical education teaching career.

Rozic agrees although he sees a lot of hard work ahead if Jones is to accomplish what seems to be a realisable goal.

"He needs to develop tactically and like all young Au-

stralians he has to improve his skills," says Rozic.

"However he is willing to learn and is a first class character and should he apply himself there is no reason why he does not face a big future in the game . . ."

For mine there is little doubt Jones has benefited from long spells playing up front.

He also has that inbred competitiveness of all Newcastle kids — the never say die, gritty, hungry determination — that Craig Johnston displays on the world stage.

Added, too, to his own qualities is the benefit of playing under the "footballing" influence of Rozic and Odzakov.

Surely the case for clubs being made to bring skilled quality imports to this country to play alongside and against our best young talent in undeniable.



Former Soccer captain and World Cup star **JOHNNY WARREN** profiles one of Australia's up-and-coming players, Sydney Croatia's Mark Jones.

Warren's Sidelines

Full marks to Marconi, the club that always tries to do the right thing, with their honouring two of their greatest servants Mark Jankovics and Tony Henderson before the recent home match against Melbourne Croatia.

Both players have passed the two hundred NSL appearance mark for the club and the presentation by club president Tony Labbozzetta was a fitting tribute to these former Socceroo players, who have been a great credit to the game in this country.

The Commonwealth Bank is once again backing boys and girls Soccer in this State.

The respective state-wide knock out Cups are both well underway with a record number of schools involved again this year.

The Commonwealth Bank, considerable backers of all youth sports, also underwrote the recent Indoor Soccer championships staged in Canberra and won by Victoria's Marybrynong which downed 4 the ACT's Hawker College 4-2 in the final.

Speaking of Indoor Soccer, the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation is proceeding with plans to stage the first Pacific Cup from July 2-7. Canada, Mexico, USA, New Zealand, Japan and Australia will take part in the Cup to be staged in either Perth or Melbourne.

The National Indoor Soccer League will again be sponsored by James Hardie Industries and covered by SBS and Club Superstation this year. The league will comprise thirteen teams including two from Perth and one from Auckland and will kick off mid August.

Multi-culturalism at its best . . . Canberra City Old Boys, backed by the prestigious City Club in Canberra, field, in its two lower division teams in the ACT League, eighteen nationalities . . . Greek, Croatian, Polish, Dutch, Hungarian, Austrian, Canadian, Lebanese, Vietnamese, Burmese, Fijian, Italian, Yugoslav, Scottish, Irish, English and for good measure two brands of Australian born — aboriginal and "vegemite" Aussies.



VEDRAN ROZIC . . . the Sydney Croatia wizard.

STRIFE AT MELITA

MELITA supporters attempted to attack referee Roger Doneau at Melita Stadium on Sunday.

The trouble appeared to arise because Doneau had dealt out yellow cards to four of their players.

An elderly woman was taken to hospital with a suspected heart attack after attempting to pull a man away from the trouble.

Some supporters tried to climb over the player race cage.

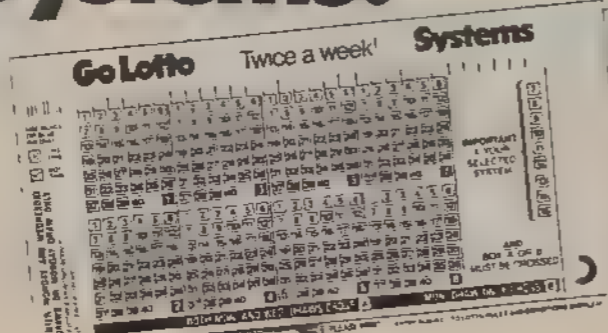
Two police officers earlier dealt with a minor disturbance in the grandstand, but they had left when the main fight started.

One man went over the perimeter fence and punched the Wollongong City reserve grade goalkeeper Chris Patsos.

Some Melita officials pulled supporters away from the players.

When Wollongong strapper Carl Simeon left the dressing room attempts were made to trip him and he was widely abused.

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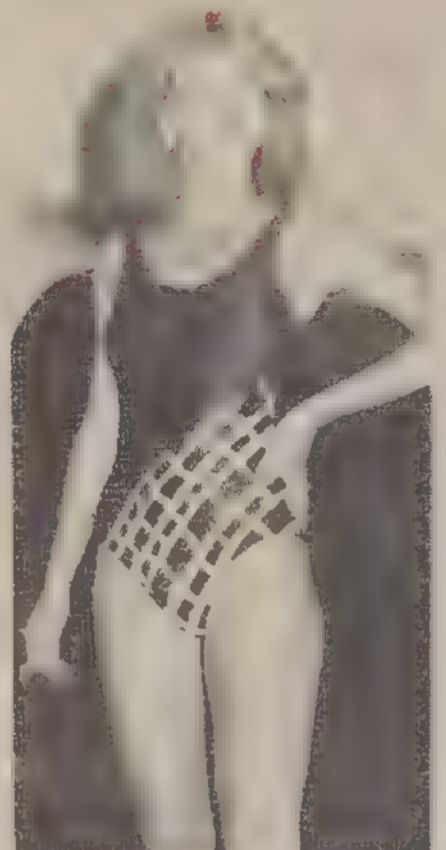


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AROK WARNS SYDNEY CROATIA

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

"WE are going to put a stop to Sydney Croatia's unbeaten run this Sunday," warned Frank Arok last night.



GRAHAME ARNOLD

St George manager Arok maintains that his young team has the tenacity as well as pace to run league leaders Croatia off their feet at the St George Stadium.

The Saints have reverted back to Sunday football after having played their first four home matches on a Friday night.

"We changed back to Sunday this weekend because it is more suitable for the Sydney Croatia supporters to travel to the Stadium," Arok explained.

It must be remembered that the Saints almost pulled it off against the powerful Croatia two weeks ago in the Beach Fashions Cup tie.

Saints held Croatia scoreless before going down in extra time.

It must also be remembered that it was St George who knocked out Croatia 3-0 in the semis last year to earn a Grand Final berth against Sydney Olympic.

Despite Arok's brava-do, St George will be without solid striker Peter Petkovski who had an arthroscope operation yesterday morning on his mystery knee injury.

Attacking midfielder Pedro Ricoy also could be in doubt for Sunday's match.

Arnold too much space

Arok, whose team had a bye last Sunday, went and saw Sydney Croatia struggle to a 1-0 win over the visiting Brunswick Juventus.

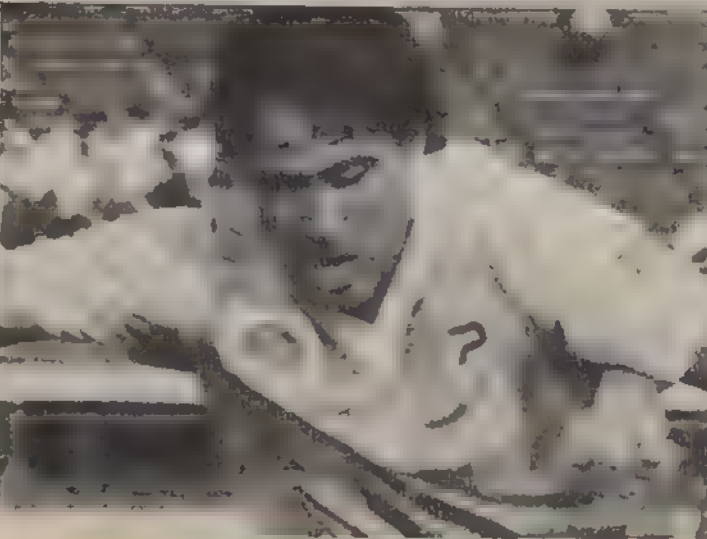
"Graham Arnold was given too much space all day, especially when he was allowed to score from 15 metres out," Arok observed.

"He won't be given such space on Sunday."

It is obvious that Arok intends assigning his tough World Cup centre-back Steve O'Connor to look after Arnold on Sunday.

Croatia after their torrid battle against Brunswick did not escape unscathed.

Winger Robbie Slater



STEVE O'CONNOR

ended the match with severe cuts to his shins while centreback Ray Vliestra is suffering from a strained hamstring.

Rozic confident

Central midfielder Ante Rumora also is carrying some heavy knocks to his thighs.

Vedran Rozic, Sydney Croatia's coach and sweeper, told ASW last night:

"We did not play well on Sunday and we do not as a rule play well at St George Stadium. But I feel we are good enough to beat St George."

If Vliestra is not cleared for the match Ante Rumora will drop back to partner Rozic in central defence and Drago Rezo will slot into the midfield.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION



NAME:	JANE OAKLEY
STATE ASSOC.:	Vic.
NUMBER OF INTERNATIONALS:	1
D.O.B.:	25.6.66
PLACE OF BIRTH:	UK
HEIGHT:	167cm
OCCUPATION:	Clerk
PLAYING POSITION:	Striker
SOCCER HONOURS:	Vic rep. since 1982; Aust. rep. '84 and '87
SOCCER HIGHLIGHTS:	Playing for Australia in 1984
MOST ADMIRER:	
PLAYERS:	Julie Dolan and Steve Archibald
MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON ON SOCCER CAREER:	Jimmy Welsh
FAVOURITE FOOD:	Fruit
FAVOURITE MUSIC:	Disco

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WORLD STARS AND AUSSIE IMPROVERS

AS I write this I am tired from a late night watching Maradona and his Naples team clinching their first ever Italian championship.

MARADONA, CLIVE ALLEN, MAXWELL & LOWE

The second half of their game against Fiorentina was a disappointment and I went to bed at 1.30am with the game locked at 1-1 and seemingly set to finish that way, as it did.

Maradona had been very sharp in the first half, but man to man marked as he was, he was given little opportunity to really sparkle.

His marker, Gelsi, only 18 years old, was lithe, fast and tenacious.

Nevertheless there was enough there for us to appreciate what an outstanding player is Maradona.

He has developed various ploys to defeat his tight markers.

One of these is at throw ins close to the opposing goal.

The thrower throws the ball hard at Maradona's chest. He chests the ball up into the air, then does an overhead kick to cross the ball into the goal.

At 26, the brilliant Argentinian is now at his peak.

He has fined down from earlier in the season when he looked a little overweight.

He is so fast over a few yards. So agile, so inventive and so marvelously alert.

It was the intelligence of his play which most impressed me.

His quick, disguised pass which began the lead up to Napoli's goal in the first half was typical of his creative skill and intelligence.

This goal was positively brilliant in its creation by the three Napoli players, Maradona, Giordano and Carnevale.

It typified the masterly skill of many of the players on the field in what is the world's premier Soccer league.

Nevertheless the game in the second half was not a good one to watch as all attacking moves were continually snuffed out with tight, sometimes cynical defence.

Low Scoring

Maradona, with only 10 goals is Napoli's leading goalscorers.

That speaks for itself about the problem the Italians have with their competition, where the best and most highly paid stars in world Soccer display their talents.

In the English 1st division, just concluded, the leading scorer, Clive Allen of Tottenham had 49 goals to his

name plus anything picked up in the FA Cup final.

I was very disappointed at the lack of protection that Maradona received early in the game against Fiorentina.

He was once brutally hacked down without any punishment to the offender and he was continually pulled

enough, did not suffer badly in comparison to the Italian.

Tight marking in modern Soccer is inevitable. Many players are able to cope with it, even defeat it with new skills and old skills.

However, if defenders are allowed to maul them, pull them, push them, obstruct them and cynically kick

facets of Steve Maxwell, a young player who has interested me during this season.

In a previous article I had mentioned that he seemed to have missed some easy chances in snippets of games SBS flashed on our screens one evening.

He had a chance with his left foot, reasonably close to goal and sent it about 12 yards wide of the left hand post.

It was bad finishing, but what was worse was that he did not seem to chastise himself for the miss.

A striker has to do this. This self-talk is crucial if a

to work on his heading and general finishing if he wants to make a real impact as a scorer.

Additionally, for a big man he is not aggressive enough.

Steve's size does not lend itself to speed, on the other hand it should allow him to be exceptionally aggressive and competitive.

Target

Steve Maxwell is English, I believe, and has been given a grounding in the skills of receiving and laying off the ball as a target player.

He is good as a target player.

He has outstanding passing ability also.

It is this ability which allows him always to have an impact on a game.

Against Melbourne Croatia he created several chances or half chances for his team mates.

In every game he is able to do this.

I am writing at length on this lad because there are some who say that he cannot play.

One said to me . . . "did you see him stumbling around . . ."

He does not stumble around.

He has exceptional close control and balance, good vision and receives the ball very well.

He is a very good, intelligent Soccer player who needs to practise his shooting and heading more and



BY MIKE JOHNSON

Ex First Division English footballer. Well known coach and author of Soccer Skills.

become more fiery, especially in the tackle.

Improver

I was very impressed with David Lowe in this game.

David competed better than I have ever seen him.

He is fit, fast, skilful and can score goals.

All he has to do is become a true competitor each week and he will become a tremendous player.

. . . "all he has to do," did we say.

It is not as easy as that, it comes from the heart.

Some have it, some haven't it.

Some have to develop it.

Some try to compete with the mouth.

Maradona used to do that.

Now he plays.

He competes with his feet, and his brain and a spirit that has driven him to become the world's best player.



MARADONA . . . Napoli's wonder man.



CLIVE ALLEN . . . Spurs Tottenham home.

led and mauled by his marker.

How can a competition bring in great talent such as Maradona and not protect it from the butchers of the game.

It is simply amazing.

The number of players in Italian Soccer who suffer severe injury is high and it is not surprising, given the cynicism of some of the tackles from behind or over the ball.

The referee was not impressive.

Earlier in that day, I had watched Marconi play Melbourne Croatia on television.

The referee, Alan Kibbler from Brisbane, despite some criticism that he did not play the advantage

them it is just too much to overcome

Such was the situation with Maradona.

Nevertheless what an excellent player. And now with a maturity which allowed him to withstand all the physical abuse to his body without retaliation.

Additional to that he quietened down several potentially explosive incidents between other players.

He was an adornment to the game.

New Facets

In the Marconi — Melbourne Croatia game referred to, I though I saw one or two new

Then I heard Adelaide coach Zoran Matic say that Maxwell had not scored a goal for Adelaide City with his head.

The Croatia game gave further evidence that Steve needs improvement as a finisher.

The equally disturbing thing seemed to be a rather carefree attitude to missed chances.

player is to improve a difficult skill such as goalscoring.

Watch any top golfer, tennis player, cricketer or Soccer striker and you will see him chastising himself for shots that are not hit correctly.

Steve scored 11 goals last year with the advantage of some highly creative players around him.

It looks like he may need

BEACH FASHION CUP

BY KEITH GILMOUR

WITH Paul Carter left on the bench and David Lowe coming on in the 76th minute, Marconi looked somewhat like toothless Leopards in their 1-0 Beach Fashions Cup win over Sunshine George Cross at the Croatian Sports Centre on Wednesday.

Their opponents however only slugged away, certainly a little clumsily, but to the credit they gave it what they had in the absence of their bright forward partnership of Paul Trimboli and John Markovski.

After the game Marconi skipper Tony Henderson summed it up succinctly: "They had us down to ten men and barely bothered to come forward," he said.

The reason underlying the "ten men" tag came right after the resumption.

Off went Nasteviski, who earlier had the satisfaction of scoring just on halftime.

MARCONI: Catlin, Wheatley, Sterrey, Henderson, Gomez, Gray, Carbone, Farina, Nasteviski, Maxwell (Lowe 76), McCulloch.

SUNSHINE: Keogh, Taylor, Campbell, Parton, Richardson, Faulkner, McLaren (Bain 73), Gilder, Edwards, Innes, Markovac.

Referee: T. Seacy. Crowd: 486. Bookings: Edwards, Campbell,

McCulloch. Sent off: Nasteviski.



DAVID LOWE . . . competing well.

Melbourne has record but . . .

POSITIVE APPROACH VITAL

OVER the last few years when the NSL was split into North and South Divisions, there was much speculation as to the better football in the different divisions.

Many said that the Southern Division was better and this was borne out by Southern clubs winning the play offs.

With the revamping of the league into one National League and after the first few games it seems that the better Soccer and better teams are definitely now from Sydney.

The top three at the moment are Sydney clubs, but it is on the park where the differences seem to be.

Every Southern club I've seen in Sydney this season



BY ALAN VEST
NSW DIRECTOR
OF COACHING

and that's all but Brunswick and Preston have been in-

ferior to its Sydney counterparts.

Maybe it is because they've playing away from home and have hard to travel, but almost without exception they've seemed to arrive with a defensive attitude.

As soon as possession is lost they all seem to just retreat into their own half and be content to soak up pressure, relying on the odd break.

Obviously this is a tactical move on their part, but there are some fine attacking players in Melbourne and one gets the feeling that a more positive approach would have got them more rewards.

Only time will tell this season who eventually wins the league, but unless something dramatic happens the Sydney clubs certainly look the goods.

BRYAN ROBSON — MAN UNITED AND QUEENSLAND?

ENGLAND and Manchester United captain, Bryan Robson, could play for Queensland in the annual interstate clash with New South Wales at Perry Park next month.

Robson has been offered to the QSF for a one-off appearance at what is understood to be a five-figure fee.

The dynamic midfielder, who became Britain's most expensive player when Ron Atkinson bought him from West Bromwich Albion to Manchester United for £ stg 2 mill, is understood to be very keen to come to Australia.

Negotiations are currently being handled by Gold Coast-based player agent Tony Price, working for English company Pro.

Price is understood also to have clinched a deal between former West Ham striker Tony Cottee and Newcastle club, Wallsend.

Queensland Soccer Federation president Ian Brusasco revealed the Robson negotiations last week and said the success of the deal depended largely on sponsorship.

Not only will the QSF be up for a hefty appearance fee, there also will be a sizeable insurance premium to cover the injury-prone Robson.

And with the European championships just around the corner, the England captain has much to play for over the next 12 months.

In 1981, Brisbane Lions paid \$2200 for a 30-day cover on Bob Latchford, then an England striker valued a more than one million pound. The premium for Robson possibly could be double that.

If the deal can be clinched, the QSF is keen to bring the England star to Brisbane or at least the week leading up to the interstate clash, likely to be held on Sunday, June 14.

There has been preliminary talk of junior coaching clinics, sportsmen's dinners and saturation promotion.

Queensland coach Bruce Stowell probably would give Robson a free role in the midfield and hope to capitalise on his fine attacking qualities. And with the Man United dynamo on their team the Maroons could even start the match as favorites.

The Maroons beat NSW 1-0 last year and the Blues team could be depleted this year because of the Socceroo tour of South Korea next month.

"Our annual clash with NSW is the biggest game on the Soccer calendar, and if Bryan Robson can be part of it as well, then we could be in for a huge day for Queensland Soccer," Brusasco said.



BRYAN ROBSON ... England skipper for Maroons?

WHEELER IN LIONS' DEN

BRISBANE Lions have staged the transfer sensation of the season by de-registering Irish import Davie Richardson and sharing Queensland striker Dave Wheeler from Coalstars.

The sudden and unexpected move came on the eve of Queensland's departure to New Zealand last week for the Auckland FA Centenary tournament.

And the signing heralds what could be a flurry of transfer action this month as Lions strengthen their squad before the transfer deadline.

"I have no doubts we have a squad capable of winning the XXXX League, but we also have got to have by the transfer deadline a side capable of winning the NSL promotion play-offs," Lions coach Col Bennett said.

"Davey Richardson is a great player, but I think at the present time Dave Wheeler is a better one."

Lions are understood also to have chased Wheeler's Coalstars and Queensland striking partner Mark Brusasco, although Brusasco looks set to see the season out at Bundamba.

Richardson has been given a virtual free transfer and at the time of writing was being chased by a number of clubs including Redlands, Croatia and Coalstars — who were left bitter

over Wheeler's sudden departure.

"We had a verbal agreement with Dave and he went against it. We have been left in the lurch," said Coalstars president Mike Rule.

The securing of Wheeler ends several years of interest by Lions which always was tempered by a lack of visa places. The Richlands club tried to sign the former English Universities striker two years ago when he scored for Queensland against NSW.

Frank Arok also tried to sign the 24-year-old striker for St George.

But on that occasion Wheeler turned down the Lions and St George approaches as he felt he owed Coalstars a full season.

This season, relations between the skilful striker and the Bundamba club have been strained from the outset.

At one stage Coalstars accused Wheeler of making the most of a supposed ankle injury and missing pre-season training.

Wheeler returned for the fixtures, but refused to sign a contract. Privately, he has made no secret of the fact he wanted to join Lions and play in the NSL.

It now remains to be seen just how else Lions will sign to strengthen their squad before the June 30 deadline. After selling 14 players in the pre-season, it is quite obvious, the club has money to burn.

HERMISTON CONFIRMS RETIREMENT

QUEENSLAND Soccer legend, Jim Hermiston, has gracefully declined a double attempt to get him back on the playing field.

The 39-year-old former Aberdeen star was approached by two XXXX League clubs. But after considerable thought the still revered Hermiston replied: "Thanks, but no thanks".

Hermiston, who has not been involved in Soccer since he went down with the sinking Brisbane City team of last year, was first approached by Redlands United to play and coach on a short term basis.

The club's player-coach Steve Perry, a former City team-mate of Hermiston's, saw the experienced Scotsman as an ideal cover while Perry was on State team duty in New Zealand.

Perry asked Hermiston to coach and play at

sweeper for two games. But Hermiston could not be tempted.



JIM HERMISTON ... declined all offers.

"It's nice to be thought of and I could understand Steve's predicament, but I have been there and done that," Hermiston said.

Rochdale were hoping for a full season commitment from the

experienced Hermiston to help hold together their young and inexperienced side.

But again Hermiston believed he had nothing to gain from another comeback.

"It's time to give the younger blokes a go," he said.

Indeed, while out of the Soccer limelight, Hermiston has still kept his finger on the pulse and is seen regularly watching his 20-year-old son James, who plays for Grange Thistle.

And young Jim has formed a lethal central defensive combination with 22-year-old Scott Walker, a devastating and tough tackler.

Some have even suggested the pair could be a new "Hermiston-Col Bennett" combination.

"The young fellow is

THE revved up clash between the REST OF THE MEDIA and SBS TV ended in a 1-1 draw last Wednesday night at the Croatian Sports Centre.

After a rugged yet open first half Les Murray scored for SBS fifteen minutes into the second term only to have Alan Vest reply three minutes from time.

Results of matches played so far this year:

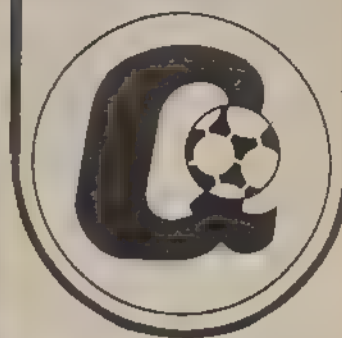
The MEDIA 3 SBS TV 2, BEACH FASHIONS 2 SBS TV 0, SBS TV 4 BEACH FASHIONS 1, The MEDIA 1 SBS TV 1.

QUEENSLAND

THE Maroons finished unbeaten and in second place in the Auckland FA Centenary tournament.

Congratulations, but can that be compared with having a team in the West End League, playing every second week at Perry Park.

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION



GREG RUSSELL covers the Queensland scene

BETTER TONE IN QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND referees this weekend will begin a blitz on foul and abusive language.

Red cards are set to be the order of the day after a two-week warning period following a meeting of match officials and leading clubs a fortnight ago.

The well attended meeting agreed there was a problem with bad language and gave referees a mandate to stamp it out.

The referees have promised to take a common sense approach, but also have said there will be no excuses for poorly disciplined players.

Fifty-six coaches, club officials, referees and QSF officials attended the recent Perry Park meeting to discuss the language problem. National referees coach Des Miles set the tone for the meeting when he told the gathering: "Foul and abusive language in Soccer has got to be stopped somehow and the only way we can do it is to work together."

After considerable input by the seven XXXX League coaches at the meeting, it was decided a blitz was the only answer.

OLYMPIC RECRUIT AIDS REDLANDS

AN enthusiastic overseas recruitment program by Queensland XXXX League club Olympic United could pay dividends for their rivals, Redlands United.

Olympic have been caught by the unexpected acceptance of offer by two overseas players — but the club has only one remaining visa position. The spare player almost certainly will be offered to Redlands.

In a desperate bid to improve their lowly position, Olympic United officials approached their visa stars, Fijian Cheetha Vosuga and Filipino Elmer Bedia to sound out some former team-mates. And both players came good.

Vosuga came up with a Fijian striker, while also adding new hope that Olympic could clinch talented Fijian Ivor Evans. At the same time Bedia organised for a Filipino national team midfielder to come to Australia.

"We are keen to sign either Evans or the other Fijian, but the Filipino boy has already resigned from his job and is ready to come to Australia," Olympic president Con Iconmides said.

"Redlands have indicated that they are keen to get some overseas players and I am sure we can come to a deal that will benefit all parties."

Redlands and Olympic were tipped by some as relegation candidates.

But as both sides now are involved in massive team strengthening, the interesting question is just who will be relegated?

And the finger is being increasingly pointed to Grange Thistle and Taringa who have invested in local youth rather than plunge into the overseas transfer market.

Both clubs field sides largely of amateurs and youngsters. On their day they can match it with anyone, but inexperience often costs them results and points.

Whether they can rally enough to avoid the drop, and prove that Olympic and Redlands spent poorly looks set to be one of the exciting slants as the season creeps past the halfway mark.

HINDMARSH COULD TAKE OVER!

BY TOM MCKAIN

THE SA Soccer Federation is watching with more than passing interest the possible passing of Melbourne's Olympic Park as a major venue.

The once perfect surface has been cut up by pop concerts, and the two clubs leasing the ground, Brunswick Juventus and Melbourne Croatia are developing their own headquarters.

Olympic No.2 has been given a synthetic surface and will not be used by any West End National League clubs.

We have been informed that it costs clubs \$20,000 to lease Olympic Park for a season and they don't receive anything from the catering rights.

If reports from Melbourne are correct, the Park will be taken over by the rock and rollers.

So where does SA come in?

It has always boasted Hindmarsh Stadium is an ideal Soccer venue, while admitting the grandstand is not on a grand scale, but plans for expansion could be implemented if there was some sort of guarantee that internationals previously booked for Melbourne would be handed over to Adelaide.

Hindmarsh extensions were to have gone ahead

20,000 capacity, says Nikolich

day night, are way ahead of anything in previous years.

"Our most recent top figures were in the '80s when we hosted World Youth Cup finals games," said SASF secretary, Mr Peter Nikolich.

"Even without the young Soccerroos in Adelaide we topped the 12,500 mark, and I think that is going to be beaten for this Westay series involving senior club sides.

"Give us the right weather and will be in business, and we might even top the 17,500 who paid to see the Soccerroos play Juventus at Football Park.

"Hindmarsh can hold 20,000 and I would like to see that capacity tested."

Apart from Hindmarsh which is the SASF headquarters leased to Adelaide Hellas, SA also has Olympic Sports Field, the home of Adelaide City.

Its only drawback is the lack of suitable floodlighting for full-scale matches

And the city also boasts Football Park, home of Australian Rules, but al-

ways available for Soccer with the codes having a mutual respect for each others viewpoints.

"If and when Olympic Park is discarded as a major Soccer venue, we will be in there stating our case," said Mr Nikolich.

"If our fans turn up for the Westay games in the numbers we expect, we cannot be ignored."

Bookings for the games have come from NSW, Queensland, Victoria and New Zealand.

The Melbourne Celtic Supporters' Club is coming over in force, led by the daunting figure of Joe Docherty, with other groups streaming in from Geelong and Dandenong, plus others who have shunned the package tours to hit the road by car and bus, or take to the railways.

While the Westay series has been shunned by Melbourne and Sydney, and only Adelaide and Perth are taking a punt on the venture, the gamble may pay off for SA in terms of establishing itself as a major Soccer venue.

After all it has provided the NSL champions twice!

TROUBLE OVER ASSESSMENTS

BY PAUL MURPHY

REFEREES are attracting more attention than the players in Illawarra this season and it isn't a situation ISA administrators want to continue.

It started with the referees being drastically short of members and even though that situation has eased, club officials are still controlling certain games and many more running lines.

Since then a strong move has started for the re-introduction of club assessment forms for referees, and some whistlers are digging their heels in.

They claim they are sitting ducks for the club "assessor" who might have a set against them.

Illawarra Referees' spokesman Phil Torpy said there are arguments for an against the system but it seems to work well within the NSW Federation.

"The matter will be discussed at a meeting of clubs and we are waiting for their reaction," Torpy said.

"Many referees are in favour of the assessment form being re-introduced and they feel over a period of time it is the best way to judge how a referee is performing.

"They also want clubs to

do the right thing and ensure the official appointed to filling out the form is experienced."

Referees' appointments are also causing comments among clubs with one or two inexperienced refs being appointed to Premier League games.

Referees John Cowland and Steve Jaros must also be wondering what is going on after their experiences recently.

Cowland had South Coast Croatia in four successive games while Jaros found himself appointed to Warilla Wanderers in five of six successive games.

The referees have their share of problems but surely there can be some alternative to allowing this to happen.



PETER NIKOLICH

next year but for the economic climate.

The plans are there and the SASF and the Hindmarsh Stadium are geared to develop larger seating accommodation and more cover for spectators along with other facilities.

Another boost for the venue as a future major stadium for internationals could come this month in the Westay international series.

Bookings on

Pre-match bookings for two games involving Scotland's Celtic against Nottingham Forest on Friday night May 29 then Manchester United on the Satur-

Unpredictable

After a 5-1 romp against Cumberland last week, Hellas has to visit the unpredictable Polonia with 21 goals on the board but 13 against, while Hellas are top scorers with 22 in the back of the net and only eight conceded.

Second placed Beograd, whipped 4-0 by Para, visit the struggle Birkalla who collapsed to three second half goals from Croatia.

Para with also 21 goals for and 13 against should get another victory this time over Apac at home.

The latter were promoted this year but look like going back down after losing to bottom side Azzurri 0-2 last week.

Azzurri are battling to overcome the disadvantage of having four points deducted for fielding an ineligible player earlier in the season.

They will have a chance at home against Salisbury as the latter, one of the early favourites, were beaten 2-0 by visiting Polonia last Saturday.

Campbelltown, last year's champions are making a charge for the league, visit lowly Cumberland after beating Lion 2-0.

Lion, another relegation candidate is home to Croatia, steadily creeping up the table.

Hellas, apart from all the other clubs trying to knock them off because they were relegated from the National League have a hard three rounds ahead — all their games are away from home.

After the visit to Polonia, they travel to Campbelltown, then Azzurri, before getting back home for Sunday match with Croatia.

While Hellas was impressive last round, Para's four goals cannot be ignored, nor the fact that Ian "Smokey" Dawson got a hat-trick.

Team-mate and fellow front runner Barry Crook is regarded as the goal ace, but he got only one.

Dawson got his third goal and Para's fourth when the district side was down to ten men after John Klein had been ordered off.

And they have three regulars to come back this weekend — Geoff Tomlinson, Laurie Humphries and Frank Horry.

Beograd will be hoping Chris Miller is fit after limping off with a recurring knee injury which requires strapping before he takes the field.

TASMANIA

BY WALTER FLESS

OLYMPIA-WPL zoomed to the top of Southern Tasmania's Cadbury State League competition with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Croatia-Glenorchy at KGV Soccer Park on Saturday.

White Eagles dropped from first to third place after it lost 2-3 to Juventus Pioneer in the curtain-raiser.

Juventus has 12 points, the same as Olympia, but must be content with second spot because of its inferior goal difference.

Croatia almost muffed an early chance to go ahead against Olympia when Wayne Cowen's penalty was brilliantly saved by Martin Burden, but Paul Furjanic scored direct from the resultant corner.

Paul Xanthopoulos's dipping shot from the edge of the penalty area in the 21st minute drew Olympia level and Perry Forster put the Greek side ahead three minutes later when he timed his late run into the penalty area to perfection and drove home Roger Munro's cross from the right.

John McIntyre's powerful downward header in the 32nd minute, from Neil Thomas's left-wing cross, sent the teams in level at 2-2 for the half-time break.

Olympia's player-coach, Ken Morton, grabbed the winner six minutes after the resumption. Munro sprinted past Baric on the right, crossed into the centre and Morton swept the ball past keeper Rodney Tattam.

White Eagles started confidently against Juventus and David Stoddart fired against a post after a clever dummy by Scott Young in the fourth minute.

Juventus took the lead two minutes later however when a misdirected back-pass by Michael Driessen resulted in defender Chris Leszczynski smashing the ball past replacement goalkeeper Peter Wass.

Eagles should have equalised in the sixth minute when Juventus keeper Neil Con-

nell turned Young's cross onto the bar, but Neil Morrison drove the rebound across the face of goal from only three metres out.

Romeo Frediani had two very good scoring chances for Juventus before David Stoddart nipped in on Andrew Leszczynski's precise pass to equalise for Eagles 10 minutes into the second period.

Pace set up Broadhouse in the 71st minute to put Juventus ahead again, only to see Richard Leszczynski equalise then minutes later to become the League's equal top scorer.

Frank Genovesi finished Eagles off five minutes from time, however. He challenged Neil Morrison to a cross, won the ball and advanced on goal before driving a perfect shot past Wass.

Howrah lifted itself from the foot of the table and relegated Rapid to last spot when it beat the latter 4-2 at KGV on Wednesday night to record its first League win of the season.

Howrah hit Rapid with two goals in the opening four minutes, a blow from which Rapid never recovered.

Paul Engels made it 3-0 in the 31st minute before Danny Donohue struck twice in 10 minutes late in the game to give Rapid a chance.

But, Howrah's player-coach Alistair Hales ensured his side of victory two minutes from time when he broke away through the middle and rounded the goalkeeper to score an easy goal.

Hobart City-Azzurri retained fifth spot in the standings when it beat Caledonians 2-1 in Wednesday's curtain-raiser.

Olympia and Juventus should retain their lead when they meet Hobart City and Howrah, respectively, tomorrow night (Wednesday), and White Eagles and Croatia should stay in touch by Rapid and Caledonians at KGV on Saturday.

Details: Olympia-WPL 3 (Xanthopoulos, Forster, Morton) b Croatia-Glenorchy 2 (Furjanic, McIntyre), Juventus-Pioneer 3 (Broadhouse, Genovesi, own goal) b White Eagles 2 (Stoddart, R Leszczynski), Howrah 4 (Harvey, Berry, Engels, Hales) b Rapid 2 (Donohue 2), Hobart City-Azzurri 2 (Bishop 2) b Caledonians 1 (White).

Leading Goalscorers: 11 Pace (Juventus), R Leszczynski (White Eagles); 10 Xanthopoulos (Olympia); 7 Stoddart (White Eagles); 6 Bishop (Hobart City), Broadhouse (Juventus); 5 McIntyre (Croatia).

BROWN TO MACEDONIA

SPEEDY striker Brian Brown has left Premier League club Cringila to join Wollongong Macedonia after seven seasons at Crehan Park.

He will have four weeks' trial with Macedonia and if things work out he will be on loan for the rest of the season.

It was a big decision for Cringila as they will obviously miss the talented striker a lot.

Cringila coach Col Owers certainly won't be able to slot someone in to Brown's position and expect the same results.

It has almost certainly ended any chance the team had of taking a semi-final spot.

Pressure

What a way to answer the critics.

Bulli striker Steve Quirk has been under plenty of pressure this season after joining the club from Aris and winning the top goalscorer award last year.

In the first six games Bulli struggled to put the ball away even though coach Norm Flanagan was more than happy with the way they were creating chances.

Against Warilla Wanderers, Bulli went down 2-1 after dominating the game.

Even Warilla coach Eddie Mullan consoled Flanagan after the final whistle.

Just a week later Bulli took the field in the match of the round against Port Kembla and won 3-2 — Quirk grabbing a hat-trick.

Short-Sighted

Wollongong Macedonia were left in an embarrassing position by two of their officials at the recent home game against Melita.

An Illawarra Mercury photographer was not allowed in to the game because, according to one of the officials, "someone from the Mercury had already gone in."

A Mercury reporter had entered the ground and a cameraman from local TV station WIN-4 was on the job.

As a matter of principle, the photographer refused to pay the admission money and returned to his office.

Considering the support given to Soccer by the newspaper it was a very unfortunate incident and showed a lack of professionalism on the part of the club.

Macedonia secretary Bob Kezovski was quick to fire in an apology to the newspaper's sporting editor the next day.

Some Sydney clubs would be green with envy if they realised how much exposure Illawarra Soccer clubs get.

ILLAWARRA INFO SOLA SPEARHEADS COAST CROATIA

BY PHIL MURPHY

IT was a big statement but South Coast midfielder Mirko Sola was deadly serious when he said he wanted to play with his club in the NSL.

Sola has been a star attraction as Croatia have powered their way to a clear lead in the premier League this season.

The club have come from the lower divisions in just three seasons and have a very strong following.

"A lot of our supporters used to go to Sydney to watch Sydney Croatia at the weekend but now they stay in Wollongong to watch us," Sola said.

"The club is very ambitious and aim to be the next Wollongong team in the

national competition."

Sola is just 22 and has plenty of time to achieve his ambition after playing with Dapto in his previous senior Illawarra appearances.

Three years ago he had a full season in reserve grade with State League club Sutherland and helped them beat Blacktown 1-0 in the grand final.

He wants to get back in a higher grade of Soccer but didn't seek a move to Wollongong City or Wollongong Macedonia this year because he thinks Croatia can make the grade.

"We are all confident we can win the Illawarra championship this year and I don't think the club will be satisfied to stay in the local competition year after year," Sola said.

With a very impressive set-up at McLennan Park, Croatia have a lot going for them and Sola may well be spot on in his prediction.

THE SA STATE LEAGUE STORY

BY TOM MCKAIN

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROTHMANS State League table should get a reshuffle this weekend after an extraordinary round on Saturday when the positions remained the same as the previous week, but leaders ADELAIDE HELLAS broke clear by two points to finish on 15.

As the clubs go into round ten aiming for a place in the play-offs for a berth in West End National League next year the table reads...

HELLAS 15, BEOGRAD, SALISBURY 13,

POLONIA 12, CAMPBELLTOWN, CROATIA 11, PARA HILLS 10, LION 8, CUMBERLAND 4, BIRKALLA, APAC 3, AZZURRI 1.

FRANK & FRANKEN

FRANK AROK'S national squad for the Everton game at Olympic Park Melbourne on Wednesday June 3 was generally well received.

The big question is the cut-off point for the 18 of the 23 who will go to South Korea.

Anthony Franken, Australia's best goalkeeping prospect since the legendary Ron Lord, is a widely accepted choice to back up Jeff Oliver.

But will Frank see it that way?

A.C.T.

FIRST DIVISION			
Croatia	3	3	0 0 8 2 6
Concordia C'berra	3	2	1 0 10 8 5
Belconnen Utd.	3	2	0 1 4 3 4
Juventus	3	1	1 1 10 4 3
CCAE	3	1	0 2 8 8 2
Canberra City Oly.	3	1	0 2 6 6 2
Tuggeranong Utd.	3	1	0 2 3 9 2
Narrabundah	3	0	3 4 13 0
SECOND DIVISION			
Canberra City	3	2	1 0 6 2 5
Queanbeyan City	3	1	2 0 7 5 4
ANU	2	1	1 0 6 3 3
Canberra United	1	1	0 0 6 4 2
West Creek	2	1	0 1 6 5 2
ADFA	2	0	1 1 3 5 1
International	3	0	1 2 5 11 1
Condors	2	0	2 4 7 0
THIRD DIVISION			
Cooma	3	2	1 0 15 5 5
Goulburn '85'	3	2	1 0 9 4 5
RMC	3	1	1 1 6 6 3
ANU	3	1	1 1 6 9 3
Tuggeranong Utd.	3	1	0 2 7 9 2
Wanderers	3	1	0 2 5 11 2
Dickson Old Boys	2	0	1 1 4 5 1
CCAE	2	0	1 1 4 1
FOURTH DIVISION			
Belwest	5	4	1 0 14 5 9
Mth C'berra Jets	5	4	0 1 17 8 8
Shadows	5	4	0 1 21 13 8
Canberra City	4	2	1 1 22 10 5
Belconnen Utd.	5	2	1 2 16 11 5
Tuggeranong Utd.	4	1	2 1 8 8 4
Latno Americas	5	1	1 3 8 16 3
Hawks	3	1	0 2 8 7 2
RMC	3	1	0 2 5 9 2
ADFA	4	0	2 2 4 9 2
Belnorth	3	0	1 2 7 9 1
ADFA B	4	0	1 3 3 30 1
FIFTH DIVISION			
Cooma	3	3	0 0 10 6 6
RMC	3	2	0 0 12 7 4
ANU	3	3	0 1 4 2 4
Goulburn '85'	3	1	1 1 13 9 3
Dickson Old Boys	3	1	0 2 10 12 2
CCAE	3	1	0 2 5 12 2
Tuggeranong Utd.	2	0	1 1 2 4 1
Wanderers	2	0	0 2 2 6 0
SIXTH DIVISION			
Belconnen Utd.	5	3	0 0 27 4 10
Weston Creek	5	3	1 1 20 10 7
Italo-Australia	4	3	0 1 13 3 7
ADFA	4	3	0 1 14 14 6
Belnorth	5	2	1 2 8 8 6
North Canberra Jets	5	2	1 2 13 12 5
Tuggeranong Utd.	5	2	0 3 17 13 4
ANU	4	2	0 2 9 16 4
Canberra City	3	1	0 2 6 6 2
Latno-Americas	4	0	1 3 2 21 1
Condors	4	0	4 4 7 17 0
RMC	4	0	4 4 3 14 0
YOUTH DIVISION TWO			
Juventus	3	3	0 0 9 1 6
ADFA A	2	2	0 0 17 1 4
Belconnen Utd B	1	1	0 0 8 0 2
Belconnen Utd A	2	1	0 1 3 5 2
Woden Valley	2	0	0 2 2 9 0
Inter-Monaro	2	0	0 2 0 10 0
ADFA B	2	0	0 2 0 15 0
DIVISION ONE — RESERVES			
CCAE	3	3	0 0 9 3 6
Juventus	3	3	0 0 10 5 6
Belconnen Utd.	3	2	0 1 11 7 4
Narrabundah	3	1	1 1 2 2 3
Croatia Deakin	3	1	0 2 6 8 2
C'berra City Oly	3	1	0 2 4 10 2
Concordia Canberra	3	0	1 2 1 4 1
Tuggeranong Utd.	3	0	3 4 8 0
DIVISION 1 — YOUTH			
Belconnen Utd.	3	3	0 0 14 5 6
Croatia	3	2	0 1 10 5 4
CCAE	3	2	0 1 12 8 4
Juventus	3	1	1 1 5 4 3
Narrabundah	3	1	0 2 8 6 2
Tuggeranong Utd.	3	1	0 2 5 10 2
Concordia Canberra	3	0	1 2 3 9 1
SECOND DIVISION — RESERVE			
ANU	3	3	0 0 15 3 6
Weston Creek	2	2	0 0 7 0 4
Canberra City	3	2	0 1 10 5 4
ADFA	2	1	0 1 5 2 2
Canberra United	2	1	0 1 9 13 2
International	3	1	0 2 4 9 2
Condors	2	0	2 2 7 11 0
Queanbeyan City	3	0	3 0 15 0

DIVISION ONE — RESERVES			
CCAE	3	3	0 0 9 3 6
Juventus	3	3	0 0 10 5 6
Belconnen Utd.	3	2	0 1 11 7 4
Narrabundah	3	1	1 1 2 2 3
Croatia Deakin	3	1	0 2 6 8 2
C'berra City Oly	3	1	0 2 4 10 2
Concordia Canberra	3	0	1 2 1 4 1
Tuggeranong Utd.	3	0	3 4 8 0
DIVISION 1 — YOUTH			
Belconnen Utd.	3	3	0 0 14 5 6
Croatia	3	2	0 1 10 5 4
CCAE	3	2	0 1 12 8 4
Juventus	3	1	1 1 5 4 3
Narrabundah	3	1	0 2 8 6 2
Tuggeranong Utd.	3	1	0 2 5 10 2
Concordia Canberra	3	0	1 2 3 9 1
SECOND DIVISION — RESERVE			
ANU	3	3	0 0 15 3 6
Weston Creek	2	2	0 0 7 0 4
Canberra City	3	2	0 1 10 5 4
ADFA	2	1	0 1 5 2 2
Canberra United	2	1	0 1 9 13 2
International	3	1	0 2 4 9 2
Condors	2	0	2 2 7 11 0
Queanbeyan City	3	0	3 0 15 0

Former Inter Monaro midfielder Luche Djordjeski was back training with his old team mates recently, but not because he was planning any immediate return to the club.

Now with Apia Leichhardt, he was in Canberra to visit his family and sought permission to train at the Marco Polo Ground.

Djordjeski's stay with the Sydney side has not been an easy one up to now.

"I injured myself in the pre-season competition and had to have a cartilage operation on my knee," he said.

"I'm back in full training now, but after such a long lay-off it's going to be several weeks before I'm match fit again.

THE man at the centre of Soccer's 'Pommie Mafia' storm, Australian Institute of Sport head coach Ron Smith, has broken his silence to reject what he describes as misinformed and unsubstantiated criticisms of the sports coaching system.

In particular he is incensed at the allegations that the national scheme has not produced a single NSL coach and that current NSL coaches are not invited to take part.

Smith, whose appointment to the AIS post triggered the row, said that study of the scheme's level-four intake last year showed how off the mark the statements were.

"Included were Billy Murray, Ken Kaiser, Mick Jones, Col Bennett, Vic Fernandez, Gordon Arrowsmith, Les Scheinflug, Sam Salapasidis, John Gardiner, Brian Garvey, Jimmy Rooney and Bobby McLaughlin — all of whom were current coaches of NSL sides or had coached teams in the past," he said.

"And virtually everyone else was either in charge of a team in the various state leagues, or working full time as a state director of coaching.

"Frank Arok (Australian and St George coach) and Eddie Thompson (Arok's assistant and then coach of Sydney City) accepted an invitation to attend the first level four course in 1984 and Frank brought the national team to Canberra for a three-day camp to coincide with it. Other NSL coaches were unable to accept invitations.

"Of course, most of these people had had coaching experience before — some would have gained qualifications from overseas — and are, therefore, not products of the scheme in the strictest sense of the word.

"But they have all seen its value, both as a way of keeping up to date with the latest ideas and of exchanging experiences.

"It would be naive to suggest that the scheme should take in a person completely unschooled in Soccer coaching at one end turn out a potential NSL coach at the other. That is not its function and it was never meant to be."

Support

Speaking from his AIS office overlooking the Pollgras pitch where the successful institute youth team does much of its training, Smith produced a sheaf of papers backing his claims that the majority of leading coaches in Australia support the scheme.

As an example he cited Western Australia where the 12 state league teams had been coached at one time or another by 19 level-three graduates of the schemes over the past 10 years; South Australia where "a high percentage" had been through the program; and NSW where, after a slow start the numbers coming forward were steadily increasing.

Of the various state directors of coaching Mark Brogan (ACT) had been through the scheme from level 2-4; Kaiser (Northern NSW) 2-4; Bruce Stowell (Queensland) level 3; Mike Wells (South Australia) level 3; Tim White (Victoria) level 3; Ken Morton (Tasmania) level 3.

Going to the heart of the Pommie Mafia claims Smith said that although the national director, Eric Worthington, and the majority of state directors of coaching were English born, they were selected by state and national executives that often had anything but English backgrounds.

He pointed to a Melbourne newspaper article which listed the members of the Australian Soccer Federation, headed by Sir Arthur George, of Greek origin, and with most of the remaining members having little or no connection with Britain.

"I don't see how a Pommie Mafia could possibly exist under those circumstances," he said.

And the system was producing the results required of it.

"Ten years ago the national team was mostly made up of players who had not learnt their football in Australia. Now it is the other way round — Robbie Dunn, Charlie Yankos,

BELCONNEN SHINES

TWO second-half substitutes scored the goal which saw Belconnen United safely home against Juventus in the ACT senior Soccer league's first-division match of the day.

In between Danny Serena had kept Juventus in the game when he got behind the United defence to receive a pass from Frank Pelle and put the ball past Richard Tomaszewski.

It was the only time Tomaszewski was beaten, but not the only time he was tested, and a string of saves by the young goalkeeper provided further evidence that he is the heir to the ACT representative position left vacant by the retirement of Steve Barber.

He did have a let-off in the first half when Dominic



VIC FERNANDEZ... level four intake.

Tony Franken, Frank Farina, Graham Arnold and John Kosmina are all home grown.

"We have a youth tema ranked 13th in the world and an under-16 side full of quality players.

"The national coaching scheme must be playing a part in this — perhaps not as the fundamental cause but certainly as a contributing factor."

LOSSES in its first two games did not mean there was cause for panic, CCAE Soccer coach Paul Davidson said.

"We lost our first two games last year and recovered to finish fourth," he said. The College began its revival in its third match with a 5-0 drubbing of Narrabundah to move off the foot of the ACT first division table.

The College's problems have also been eased with the return of first-choice goalkeeper Warwick Wilson.

"Warwick injured knee ligaments in a Tuesday night game against the Australian Institute of Sport and missed both our opening league games," Davidson said. "In the first one, the 4-2 loss to Canberra City Olympians, I persuaded Mitchell Siggs to come out of retirement for a one-off game, and last week against Croatia Deakin I had

CANBERRA GRIFFINS CHASE A STRIKER

CANBERRA Griffins are ready to enter the Soccer transfer market for a striker of recognised quality, publicity officer John Bonnett said.

"Obviously I cannot say who he is but he was among the leading scorers in the NSL last season," he said.

"It does not mean that we are dissatisfied in any way with the ones we have at the moment. We simply need more depth in this area."

This has been born out over the last few weeks when injuries to Ray Junna and Sixto Gonzales left Alan Reis without a specialist striking partner. As a result player-coach Augusto Palacios has been forced to experiment with either himself or Billy Willox in the front line.

FERNANDEZ ON LOOKOUT

Inter Monaro coach Vic Fernandez believes his team could benefit from some 'house cleaning' by the 14 National Soccer League clubs over the next few weeks.

"With the reduction in the competition last year there were plenty of players around at the beginning of the season, and the remaining clubs signed up more than they needed," he said.

"Now they have sorted out the ones they really need for their squads there will be players up for sale before the transfer deadline.

He said Monaro had been in touch with one NSL side and been told its squad would soon be cut. "We should be able to take advantage of this. It is just a matter of waiting to see who is available.

Tony Brennan has scored two of our three goals this season and is improving all the time, while Jason Thornton's workrate is invaluable in midfield.

"Overall, I am still confident we can achieve our target of the top four."

Ian Rumble, from the reserve, in goal.

The college lost that one 4-1, but Davison said there were good indicators from both matches.

"Olympians scored two goals you wouldn't expect to see on Match of the Day," he said. "One especially was a free kick from Mark Brogan which he could try a dozen other times and not score from.

"Then, against Croatia we were the equal of them for most of the game, but they killed us with three goals in five minutes just after half time.

"I am making no excuses here. They were sloppy goals for our defence to give away.

"There are positive signs.

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ACT WOMEN GIFT FOR MacKILLOP

ANU women's Soccer coach Clive MacKillop got a welcome present on his return from overseas duty with the Australian youth team when the University scored an upset 2-0 win over Downer Olympic in the final round of the Elaine Watson Cup.

Goals by Francine Dwyer and Nikki Fuller gave ANU a victory which will ensure it plays in the first division during the coming league season.

Weston Creek maintained its position at the top of the table beating Belconnen United 3-0 with goals from Glenda Hall and Julie Murray (2) while Stormbirds and Queanbeyan played out a 0-0 draw.

In the Sarah Briggs Shield for potential reserve and second division teams, Tuggeranong United's Rachelle Higgins scored the only goal to the game against Belconnen II then shared the spoils with Dina Butler in a 2-0 win over Stormbirds II.

Stormbirds gained some consolation with a 2-1 win over Downer Olympic II, Maria Olivera scoring twice with Debra Acland netting for Olympic.

Later Acland repeated the experience of scoring yet finishing on the losing side when she was on target twice in her side's game with Wanderers — but not before four goals from Wanderers' Clair Angel had put the match beyond doubt.

Wanderers had previously been beaten 2-0 by ANU II, while in other matches Concordia Canberra beat CCAE II 3-1 and drew with ANU 0-0 and Belconnen beat Weston Creek II 4-0.

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — MAY 19, 1987 17

TASMANIA-SOUTH HOBART CITY PRESSING

BY WALTER PLESS



OLYMPIA-WPL's Craig Nichols in full flight — but all his efforts didn't stop White Eagles winning 3-1 in Hobart. Photo by Robin Lane

JUVENTUS-Pioneer and White Eagles stayed neck-and-neck in the Southern Tasmanian Cadbury State League title race with wins against Hobart City-Azzurri and Olympia-WPL respectively.

But, whereas White Eagles comfortably disposed of Olympia 3-1, Juventus was almost severely embarrassed by City and just squeezed home 3-2 with the aid of a penalty four minutes from the end.

Croatia-Glenorchy maintained fourth place with a narrow 2-1 win over bottom-

side Howrah, while Caledonians and Rapid opened their accounts for the season by sharing the points in a dour scoreless draw.

Olympia opened up well against Eagles, despite the absence of key defenders Chris Hey and David Crosson, both of whom were injured, and it was not surprising when the speedy Paul Xanthopoulos put the Greek side ahead in the 11th minute.

Xanthopoulos should have scored again in the 25th minute but this let-off enabled Eagles to gain valuable breathing space and Richard Leszczynski put Eagles level with a header in

the 34th minute.

The same player struck again six minutes later following a superb diagonal pass across the penalty area by David Stoddart.

Eagles made it look easy from then on and David Stoddart finished Olympia off on the hour with an easy goal after Richard Leszczynski's shot had come back off a post.

Neil Bishop shocked Juventus with a goal midway through the first half following a short free-kick by Carlo Ambrosino and it wasn't until ten minutes into the second period that Sergio Pace drew Juventus level.

Frediani sent over a corner from the left, Kannegiesser knocked it back across goal, and Pace spun like a top to smash the ball into the net.

Gasparin's pass from the left on the hour enabled Frediani to give Juventus the lead but, with 15 minutes remaining, City substitute Robbie Marino took advantage of a poor back-pass to equalize.

Juventus appeared to have grabbed an easy winner when it was awarded a penalty for tripping four minutes from time, but the outcome was a little more complicated.

City goalkeeper Anthony Zito saved John Broadhouse's spot-kick, but midfielder Steve Kannegiesser, who was following up the kick, hammered in the rebound to save a lot of red faces in the Juventus camp.

An 8th-minute header by the towering Tony Bacic gave Croatia a 1-0 lead at the interval against Howrah before player-coach Wayne Cowen hand-balled in the 79th minute to allow Howrah to level.

Howrah player-coach Alistair Hales bent a devastating free-kick over the defensive wall and into the top corner of the net to put Howrah within a whisker of gaining its first point of the season.

It was not to be, however. Cowen, determined to atone for his error, threw his defensive duties to the wind and ventured forward repeatedly in search of the winner

With eight minutes remaining, he found it. Thomas crossed from the right and Cowen rose to head the ball firmly past Stewart to regain his lost pride and extinguish Howrah's spluttering flame of hope.

Details: White Eagles 3 (R. Leszczynski 2, Stoddart) Olympia-WPL 1 (Xanthopoulos), Croatia-Glenorchy 2 (T. Bacic, Cowen) Howrah 1 (Hales), Juventus-Pioneer 3 (Pace, Frediani, Kannegiesser) Hobart City 2 (Bishop, R. Marino), Caledonians 0 Rapid 0.

Cadbury State League Standings:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juve-Pioneer	5	5	0	0	23	6	10
White Eagles	5	4	1	0	22	5	9
Olympia-WPL	5	4	0	1	17	4	8
Croatia-Glen	5	3	1	1	16	8	7
Hobart-Azzurri	5	2	0	3	8	15	4
Caledonians	5	0	1	4	3	15	1
Rapid	5	0	1	4	4	19	1
Howrah	5	0	0	5	2	23	0

Leading Goalscorers: 11 Sergio Pace (Juventus); 9 Richard Leszczynski (White Eagles); 6 Paul Xanthopoulos (Olympia); 5 John Broadhouse (Juventus), David Stoddart (White Eagles).

ROCKHAMPTON'S AMPOL CUP VICTORY

ROCKHAMPTON's senior Soccer team won its way into the quarter finals of the Statewide Ampol Cup with a good win over arch rivals Bundaberg in final game of the elimination series played in Bundaberg.

After defeating Gladstone and Maryborough in the earlier games Rockhampton only had to draw with the home side to go through on goal average but they held on for a tight 2-1 win.

Coach Richard Evans was elated with the weekend's results as the Youth side was also undefeated to win the inaugural Central Coast Ford

Dealers Trophy.

"It was a tremendous team effort" Evans said. "They were all given a job to do and showed a great deal of mental discipline to come out on top."

"It was a great game and I wasn't really confident of a win until the final whistle went".

This is the second year in a row that Rockhampton has won its way through to the quarter-finals and they will now wait for the decision of the QSF as to where the next game will be played.

The Rockhampton Federation can expect a game against a Brisbane team sometime during June.

GAIN FOR LAVINGTON

LAVINGTON Soccer Club in the Albury Wodonga Soccer Association was fortunate to gain the services of experienced coach Lt George Moschis.

He is a teacher at the Bandana Army Apprentices Education Section.



LT GEORGE MOSCHIS

After playing the game, George coached the Adelaide Hellas Colts team, with players like Chris Manou, Brenton Hiern and Tim Brown being amongst those that he guided.

Also a highly experienced athletics coach, he taught

physical education and English in Adelaide High schools for 10 years.

He holds a degree and a diploma in education, and is currently studying for his master's degree in physical education and psychology.

— FRANK FINLAY

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND PREPARES

THE Zone 3 Central Queensland championships will provide representative matches for almost 500 young footballers in late July and early August.

The games will be played in under 12 to 16 age groups in Emerald, Biloela, Rockhampton, Blackwater and Gladstone.

A presentation of a \$1000 cheque from The Rock Building Society general manager Philip Michael to central Queensland chairman Dr John Dunne took place and will greatly assist the conduct of the titles.

OAK TURNER CUP THRILLS

THE Christian Community School at Regents Park, a small school of only 450 pupils, are having their best ever run in the Oak Turner Cup having won their way into Round 3.

After a win on penalties against Trinity College, they defeated St Pats Dunas 2-1 in Round 2.

Initially the Christian Community players (a small team) were overcrowded by the huge size of the St Pats'

players, and had to weather a barnstorming start by the opposition.

However a long shot from the Christian Community left wing, enabling them to take the lead against the run of play.

Thus settled down the team and they were able to match St Pats till just before halftime, when they conceded the equaliser.

Castle Hill High continued their fine run in all three of this year's competition with a crushing 6-1 win over St Leos in a Region 8 match.

— LINDSAY HEWISON

FOLLOWING some very solid trials the Hunter Region has come up with a formidable squad to contest the NSW Combined High Schools Girls Regional Championships to be held this year in beautiful Coffs Harbour.

Michelle Caban, a member of the well known Newcastle playing and refereeing family, grabbed one of the fullback positions.

Diminutive forward Melina Kembrey, who is in Year 9, made the squad on her first attempt and should learn a lot this year.

The tireless Toronto lass Megan Brewster missed the cut off by a whisker in 1986 but got the nod this time.

The combination of Lisa Freeman and Jodie Connolly should give excellent leadership as they are seasoned performers.

The Hunter Region convenor Paul Freeman of Warners Bay High will again coach the side.

The Hunter squad is: Melissa Cedeland (Maitland), Cassandra Adams (Booragul), Danielle Lackenby (Warners Bay), Cheryl Freeman (Warners Bay), Jodie Connolly (Warners Bay), Michelle Prouten (Raymond Terrace), Tamara Sinclair (Warners Bay), Laisha Hutt (Cardiff), Lucille Mason (Morisset), Allison Harris (Cardiff), Anne Crowther (Jesmond), Michelle Caban (Jesmond), Cheryl Salisbury (Lambton), Melissa Kembrey (Booragul), Megan Brewster (Toronto). Coach: Mr Paul Freeman (Warners Bay).

NSL YOUTH-NORTH

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

THE NSL clubs no longer have a mortgage on the Youth Championship after some shock results at the weekend.

Previously the State League sides have struggled to keep their NSL counterparts under double figures, but Manly and Melita came up trumps upsetting the top of the table in the process.

Firstly Marconi played their deferred match against Sutherland mid-week and in a see-sawing struggle downed the South-easterns 4-3. At the weekend Marconi were not so fortunate going down 2-1 to Melita.

APIA took top spot back from the Saints despite drawing with Manly 2-2 and having to claw themselves back from defeat twice midway through the second period.

In the match of the round St George surrendered the lead against Olympic with ex-Slicker Tom Pontidas providing the only goal in the 71st minute.

In other games Croatia kept up their championship hopes and despite a layoff of three weeks easily accounted for cellar dwellers Warringah 2-0.

Despite going ahead early in the second period Sutherland had to settle for a 1-1 draw against the previously pointless Uruguay.

outplay Marconi at home on Sunday.

The win doesn't alter the complexion of the middle of the table battle for Melita but keeps them firmly within sight of the top five.

In a match shortened by the Melita club to accommodate their later matches the home side went ahead through Warren Dalton in the 14th minute when he latched on to a cross from the right to nod home.

Steve Klincacovski, the Melita goal machine, added a second in the 66th minute after skilfully controlling a Dalton cross on his chest and burying his chance from 10m.

Marconi created little but grabbed a late goal from the penalty spot through Joe Russo in the 88th minute and had to be content with their midweek win over Sutherland.

MELITA 2: Blow, Miles, Shute (Daley), Dickinson, Colro, Seclott, Ortiz, Buchanan, Dalton, Klincacovski, Veral (Pitcock).

MARCONI: Jones, Curko, Rizotto, Agiasotis, Budwee, Cortes (Budini), Ortega, Russo, Ackerley, Loran, Surjan (Barbaro).

MANLY 2
APIA 2

Manly came of age against APIA twice taking the lead only to see their more experienced opponents drag themselves back into the game.

Roger Greaves bagged the opening goal after 20 minutes with a shot from the edge of the box and the score remained 1-0 to Manly until the break.

Following a free kick Troy Neate escaped the defence and tucked his equaliser for APIA into the corner after 50 minutes.

Substitute David Annan restored Manly's lead after 61 minutes with the goal of the match. From wide out on the edge of the box he beat the keeper with a shot into the far corner.

Manly's celebrations were shortlived as a minute later Vic Masi poked the ball home from close range following a goalmouth scramble.

The result puts APIA back on top and Manly have now gone five matches without defeat to put them in sight of the top five.

MANLY: Van Leguwen, Reeves, Vale, Thomas, Logan, Ure, Greaves, Glascock (Braun), Willis, Tomic (Annan), Wassell.
Best Players: Glascock, Thomas, Ure

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
ST GEORGE 0

Olympic continued their dramatic unbeaten sequence in the league with a fine 1-0 win over the Saints after the sides were locked at 0-0 at half time.

Olympic in fact have not dropped a point this season and are poised to take top spot as they have a couple of matches up their sleeve.

The game had plenty of incident, the Saints keen on staying at the top and Olympic likewise to keep their record intact. After five minutes Saints' Theo Kotsias went close with a 25m drive that scraped the base of the post.

And George Bouhoutsos was forced to produce a blind ing save to deny Steve Chilas access to the goal from eight metres. Mike Grbevski went close for the Saints at the other end with a header that scraped the bar from a Zoran Ilic cross.

The goal in the 71st minute was a gem. Arthur Svinos swung in a cross for Tom Pontidas who netted a snap shot from 15m.

With four minutes remaining Saints were reduced to ten men when Robert Harmat was dismissed for alleged punching. But the match was firmly in Olympic's grasp and they took the points.

CROATIA 2
WARRINGAH 0

Croatia resumed after a three-week layoff and thoroughly outplayed Warringah but failed to register the deserved goals.

Tony Krslovic netted the first in the 10th minute after Warringah's keeper failed to hold a cross. Krslovic tucked away the loose ball. Adrian Ciscato scored the second with two minutes remaining with a shot from the corner of the box.

CROATIA: Woodhouse, McLean, Grubba, Alilovic, Whant, Stehlic, Cerro (Voloder), Krslovic, Ciscato, Orlic (Cardum), Tomic.
WARRINGAH: Jucaro, Lundini, Bruzzano, Cirino, Arcuri (Simpson), Cayirlyls, Dray, Toderello, Russo (Agostini), Denn, Graziani.

SUTHERLAND 1
URUGUAY 1

At the other end of the scale Uruguay picked up their first point of the season with a 1-1 draw against Sutherland.

Carlo Giovenco opened the scoring for Sutherland

ten minutes into the second half after a defender mis-kicked. Giovenco netted from the edge of the box.

Fifteen minutes from time Goran Likoski fired home an equaliser following a goalmouth scramble.

URUGUAY: Cardajal, Bocchino, Brane, Laiker, Mravunac, Pauling, Gomes, Bruno, Gurol, (Rossini), Rodrigues (Likoski), Ulioa.

SUTHERLAND: Poilis, Long (Clerke), Carroll, Ashton, Fielding, Burnell, Glovenco, Barr King, Perkovic, Meilier.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APIA	8	5	2	1	24	5	12
St George	8	5	2	1	23	6	12
Olympic	5	5	0	0	15	3	10
Croatia	5	4	0	1	22	7	8
Marconi	8	4	0	4	16	16	8
Manly	7	3	2	2	14	16	8
Warringah	7	4	0	3	11	14	8
Sutherland	6	1	1	4	9	15	3
Canterbury	7	1	0	6	4	21	2
Uruguay	5	0	1	4	3	14	1
Warringah	6	0	0	6	3	27	0

SCOTTY

I AM a long time reader of your newspaper and I enjoy it, in spite of the small errors which regularly appear in all newspapers nowadays.

What moved me to write this letter, was the photograph published in consecutive edition, with different names being used (should be Scott Patterson).

Someone should have spotted this before going to press.

N. Ward,
Holt ACT 2615
[Spot on, Mr Ward. Apology in recent issue. — Ed]

RECORD?

IS Sydney Croatia's great run of not losing an NSL match since September 1984 a West End NSL record?

Also, it beats me, why the ASF doesn't promote the West End NSL commercial on commercial TV. I haven't seen it yet on commercial TV.

A. Jenkins,
Bardwell Park 2207
(I think you might have your wires crossed a little. Croatia have been beaten several times in League matches over the last few seasons. Maybe you mean in home games? — ED)



NSW AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION



FEW SOCCER INJURIES IN SCHOOLS' MATCHES

BY ALAN VEST

THERE has been quite a reaction in school sport, after the court case on the injured rugby league player.

There have been cries for better coaching from teachers within our general coaching course set up.

We are getting many teachers involved as well as conducting courses specifically for teachers, and in colleges for students.

Soccer through hasn't the physical impact of scrums and the like.

Particularly for young players, with small side games being recommended, it is easier for teachers to administer

Soccer than other such games and come out with a negligible number of serious injuries.

Our level 1 courses are specifically designed with organisation in mind so that coaches and teachers are able to plan and organise situations where players can enjoy session in these small side situations.

Another help to teachers, which we are hoping to implement in this near future, is a card system which emphasised practices most suitable for young players.

Similar schemes already exist in some states and seem to be working very well.

SAFETY IN SPORT SPORTS TRAINER'S COURSES

THE Australian Sports Medicine Federation conducts a 25 hour course which introduces sports trainers, coaches, teachers and parents to the basic theory and practice of sports first aid and sports medicine, including injury prevention.

A course will be held at St George Rugby League Club, Princes Highway, Kogarah on four Sundays during May and June commencing on May 17.

With the present emphasis on safety in sport, it is imperative that personnel involved in the management of sports people are adequately equipped to deal with basic injuries.

For further information on this course or our programme of courses for 1987, contact Win Boyden on 636 6282 or Robin Parkinson on 241 3541.



METROPOLITAN REPRESENTATIVES		
	U12	U11
Warrara v Bankstown	1-2	—
Nepean v South & East	2-0	2-2
Gladesville v Granville	0-2	0-1
Manly v St George	1-3	—
Central Coast v Sutherland	0-2	0-2
Southern Districts v Macarthur	1-0	3-1
Canterbury v Blacktown	2-2	1-1

OMISSION STINGS APIA JUNIORS

THE APIA junior Soccer Club is outraged after the decision to leave its brilliant fullback John Cosentino out of the Australian Under 16 Soccer team to tour Canada in July for the World Cup.

Juniors secretary Vince Aiello was furious that Cosentino did not make the squad.

"Naturally, the APIA club, including myself, are extremely disappointed," he said.

"I think politics played a big part in the decision to omit him because of his size."

"We are dirty on the whole thing."

"I believe that as long as a player has got the skill and ability, size should not be taken into account in selecting a team."

"There were players that made the squad who wouldn't be able to tie up John's bootlace."

"Nevertheless, John has taken it in his stride and now wants to concentrate on his club commitments."

The disappointment of Cosentino's exclusion from the squad was eased by the news that fellow APIA junior Anthony Pisano had been selected.

Cosentino, who plays sweeper in the under 16 APIA team, is one of the club's most promising juniors.

He has been a member of the NSW state squad for the past two years and was a shadow player for the Australian Under 16 youth team which went to Taiwan and successfully qualified for the Under 16 World Cup to be held in Canada this year.

Cosentino first laced up a pair of boots as an eight-year-old when he played for his local Soccer club Hurlstone Park. He then had a stint with Wests and has now started his fourth year with APIA.

At the end of the season, APIA will send its best and fairest junior to Italy for a month's training with glamour First Division club Fiorentina.

This rates highly in Cosentino's ambitions.

"I would like to win the trip to Italy at the end of the year and it would also be nice if we can win the Metropolitan State Championships with APIA," he said.



LISMORE CAE

2nd Division Champions
David Sprigs, Klaus Woldring, Peter Fitness, Peter Harley.

HORNSBY REACHES HEIGHTS

ON Sunday 12th July 1987 the Hornsby Heights Soccer Club will be running a U/11 Soccer Tournament as one of the several functions to celebrate the founding of the Hornsby Heights Sports Club.

The competition will involve 16 teams in four groups playing in a "Round Robin" format with the winners and runners up of each group advancing to a grand final and a consolation final respectively.

Hornsby Heights Soccer Club is a modern and progressive club — the second largest in the K.D.S.A. with over 400 junior, youth and all age players.

Any interested clubs should contact the Secretary, Mr Doug Taylor, 447 3962 or assistant Secretary Mr Phil Woods, 476 4451 for any information.

**JUNIORS,
SCHOOLBOYS,
COACHES**
Don't miss
the Tim White
column in
this issue

ADRIATIC YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 13 SATURDAY 23RD MAY

GROUP A			
Sydney Olympic	v	Marconi	Pratten Park
Central Coast	v	Blacktown City	Bill Plum Mem.
Nepean	v	APIA	Cook Park
St George	v	Gladesville	Peakhurst Park
Melita	v	Sydney City	Melita Stad
Can/Marrick	v	Ku-ring-gai	Arlington Oval

GROUP B			
Sutherland	v	Macarthur	Bates Drive
Manly	v	Crown City	Cromer Park
Nth Bankstown	v	Polonia	Potts Park
Uruguay/Pan.	v	Avala	Mona Park
Croatia	v	Bankstown	Jensen Park
Rockdale	v	Blacktown	Tempe Res.
Canterbury	v	Yugal	Punchbowl No.1

NSW Youth League

ROUND 11

SATURDAY 16TH MAY GROUP A

	U13	U14	U15	U16
APIA	2-1	2-1	0-1	0-3
Blacktown City	2-1	2-2	2-3	3-2
St George	1-1	3-0	2-1	2-2
Melita	—	—	—	—
OUT	—	—	—	—

Illawarra	v	Gladesville	2-1	4-0	3-0	1-0
Can/Marrick	v	Sydney City	5-1	6-1	0-3	1-2
Sth Districts	v	Ku-ring-gai	2-1	1-0	3-1	0-1

GROUP B						
Nth Bankstown	v	Sutherland	0-3	0-1	2-0	1-0
Macarthur	v	Manly	1-2	2-0	3-1	1-0
Avala	v	Crown City	4-2	8-1	3-1	6-0
Polonia	v	Croatia	1-1	0-5	0-2	0-2
Blacktown	v	Uruguay/Pen.	1-1	2-1	1-0	2-2
Canterbury	v	Bankstown	9-0	0-4	2-0	7-0
Rockdale	v	Yugal	6-2	2-1	5-0	3-1

NSW Youth League

ROUND 12

SUNDAY 17TH MAY GROUP A

	U13	U14	U15	U16
Marconi	—	—	—	—
OUT	—	—	—	—

Ku-ring-gai	v	Sydney Olympic	1-3	1-2	1-2	0-4
APIA	v	Central Coast	5-0	6-0	1-0	1-1
Nepean	v	St George	0-0	0-1	0-1	1-2
Gladesville	v	Melita	3-1	1-0	1-4	0-1
Sydney City	v	Illawarra	0-3	0-3	0-0	2-1
Sth Districts	v	Can/Marrick	0-3	1-1	4-3	2-1

GROUP B						
Sutherland	v	Manly	DEFERRED			
Yugal	v	Macarthur	0-2	1-4	0-1	0-3
Crown City	v	Nth Bankstown	1-3	0-5	0-2	0-3
Avala	v	Polonia	0-2	1-3	1-0	1-2
Croatia	v	Uruguay/Pan.	4-1	6-1	2-0	1-1
Bankstown	v	Blacktown	5-6	2-2	0-3	0-7
Canterbury	v	Rockdale	6-0	2-0	4-0	1-5

CROSSWORD

COURTESY GLADESVILLE-
HORNSBY FOOTBALL ASSN

This crossword includes clubs from Europe, Australia and the local scene.

ACROSS.

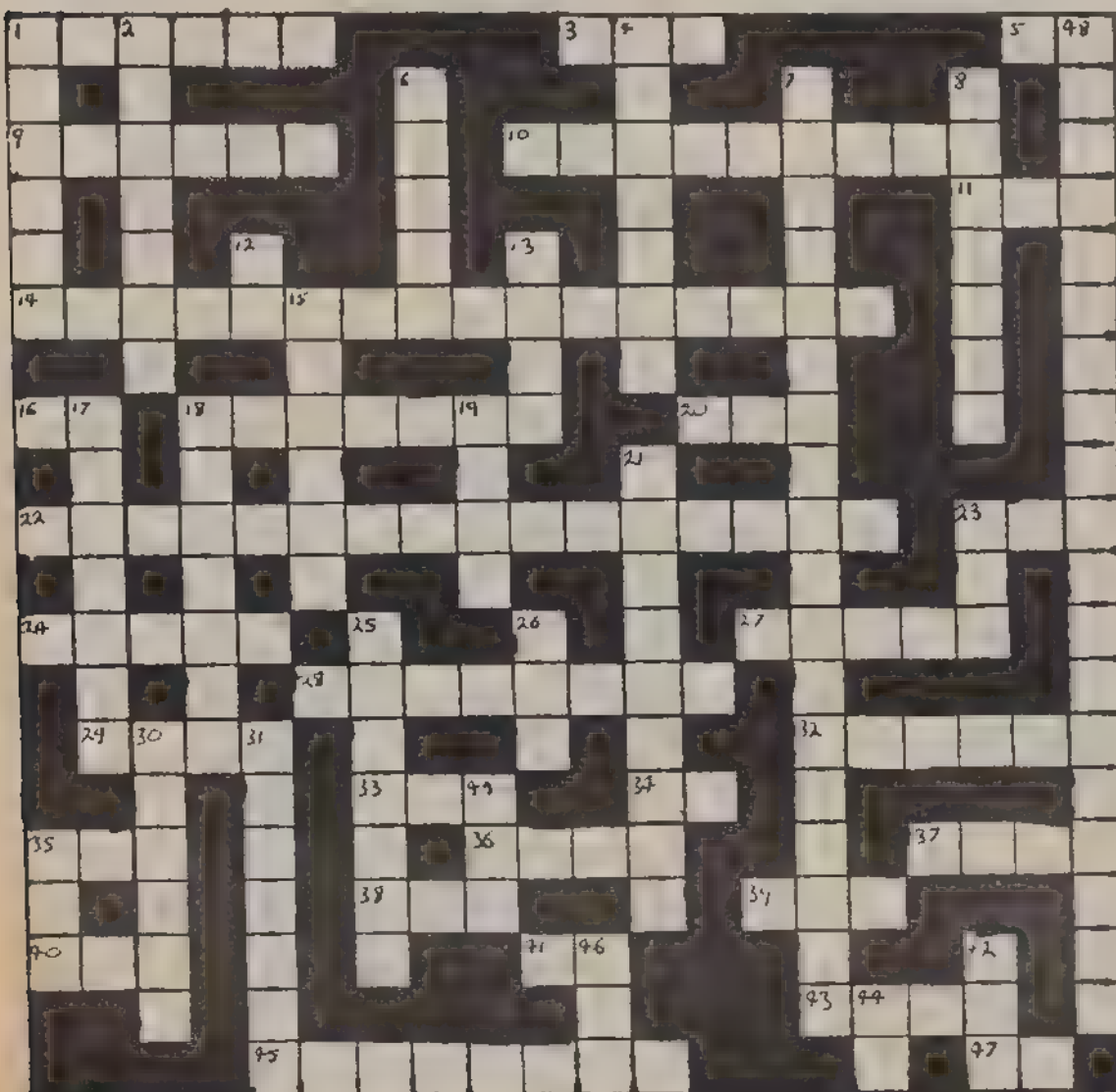
- Middle of the road club in Scottish Div 1
- This club's colours are blue and white. (abbreviated)
- Arsenal (initials)
- National Soccer ____ of Australia
- Famous Spanish Club
- ____ marnock.
- This club has more supporters than any other in the world
- Scottish Club Colours are green and white. (initials)
- This team makes a mess of pork, from the English 4th Division
- ____, Eindhoven
- This club's U18s won the 1986 Champion of Champions.
- ____ United, Scottish Div 2
- ____ Villa.
- Generally play in all white. English Div 2.
- From the Scottish Div 1.
- Part of the Northern Ireland competition.
- Recently sold top class striker to Liverpool
- Joint 7 Champions 1986 (abbreviated)

- This club's Premier League 2 reserves were Premiers and Champions in 1986 (initials).
- Club colours are Black and White (2nd Word abbreviated)
- ____ Madrid.
- This club's home ground is Lambert Park
- Ryde R.S.L. (abbreviated)
- Australians No 1 Soccer paper (initials)
- Pennant Hills Raiders. (initials)
- Famous Glasgow Club. (initials)
- Premier League 1 Premiers 1986
- Australian Champions 1986 ____ City
- London Club from the 2nd Division

DOWN.

- This club is in the middle of the table of the English Div 3.
- This club may be relegated to Division 3 at the end of the season
- Italian based Australian club from the Fairfield area
- ____ Andrews.
- This club's home ground is Pioneer Park.
- This club's home ground is

- near Rogans Hill.
- Galston Club. (initials)
- West ____ Albion. (abbreviated)
- Probably will just miss out on promotion to the 3rd Division
- Kerry Dixons club.
- Chairman of this club recently toured Australia.
- Famous Dutch Club
- ____ Wednesday
- Some of Australians top juniors will receive a scholarship to train and play here
- North Epping ____.
- This club's players are all former pupils. (initials)
- West Ryde
- English Div 4 club with namesake in Australia near Newcastle
- Ryde District Panthers (initials)
- ____ University. (abbreviated)
- This club plays on the Maine Rd. (initials)
- Rudders. (abbreviated)
- Club colours are Red and Black
- Green and Gold Gladesville club. (abbreviated)



STATE LEAGUE RESERVES		Brighton		8	3	0	5	10	23	4
		East Preston		7	0	4	3	7	10	3
		East Geelong		8	0	1	7	5	19	1
		Nth Sunshine		8	6	0	2	27	7	12
Maribyrnong		11	7	2	2	29	12	16		
St Albans		10	7	1	2	30	20	15		
Fawkner		10	6	2	2	26	18	14		
Croydon City		10	4	4	2	19	14	12		
Green Gully		11	4	3	4	17	15	11		
Monwail Falcons		9	4	2	3	19	11	10		
Broadmeadows		9	5	0	4	21	17	10		
Thornhill		10	4	2	4	13	13	10		
Northcote City		10	2	5	3	22	22	9		
Springvale City		10	4	1	5	17	18	9		
Western Suburbs		11	4	1	6	30	34	9		
Box Hill		11	2	5	4	12	18	9		
Frankston Pines		10	4	1	5	21	28	9		
Oakleigh		10	1	3	6	18	35	5		
Caulfield City		10	2	0	8	18	37	4		
VIC ONE										
Sunbury Utd.		8	6	1	1	16	6	13		
Bulleen		8	6	1	1	14	4	13		
Essendon City		8	4	3	1	15	10	11		
Altona Gate		7	5	0	2	18	6	10		
Ringwood City		8	5	0	3	12	7	10		
Albion Rovers		7	4	1	2	10	5	9		
Werrisbee		7	3	3	1	7	2	9		
Knox City		8	4	1	3	15	12	9		
Nth Dandenong		8	3	1	4	9	7	7		
Richmond		7	1	5	1	8	7	7		
SM Mordialloc		6	1	2	4	16	6	14		
Nunawading City		7	0	2	5	4	11	2		
Doncaster Rvrs		8	1	0	7	5	22	2		
Melbourne		8	0	0	8	1	25	0		
RESERVES										
Essendon City		8	4	3	1	14	11			
Bulleen		8	5	1	2	18	14	11		
SM Mordialloc		7	4	2	1	22	8	10		
Doncaster Rvrs		8	4	2	2	17	10	10		
Altona Gate		6	4	2	0	12	5	10		
Knox City		8	3	3	2	10	9	9		
Nunawading City		7	4	1	2	16	9	9		
Ringwood City		8	4	0	4	22	18	7		
Nth Dandenong		8	3	1	4	9	14	7		
Sunbury Utd.		8	2	2	4	15	19	6		
Werrisbee		7	2	1	4	8	17	5		
Albion		7	2	0	5	10	13	4		
Melbourne		7	1	0	6	4	9	2		
Richmond		7	0	2	5	9	41	2		
VIC TWO										
Dandenong City		8	5	2	1	14	9	12		
Prahran City		8	4	3	1	23	11	11		
Clifton Hill		8	5	1	2	21	9	11		
Westgate		8	5	1	2	15	11	11		
Sandringham		8	4	2	2	8	6	10		
Mooroolbark		8	4	1	3	20	10	9		
Waverley City		8	3	2	3	11	8	9		
Nth Geelong		8	3	2	3	12	15	8		
Doveton		8	2	3	3	10	8	7		
Altona City		8	2	2	4	12	14	6		
Hamlyn Rgrs		8	1	4	3	8	15	6		
Eltham		8	2	2	4	9	17	6		
Ringwood Utd.		8	1	3	4	9	13	5		
Mornington		8	0	1	7	4	30	1		
RESERVES										
Clifton Hill		8	7	0	1	32	5	14		
Waverley City		8	5	3	0	22	9	13		
Mooroolbark		8	6	1	1	17	4	13		
Eltham		7	5	1	1	21	9	11		
Doveton		8	4	1	1	28	7	9		
Nth Geelong		8	3	1	4	20	14	7		
Westgate		7	2	3	2	8	8	7		
Prahran City		7	3	0	4	18	13	6		
Sandringham		8	1	3	4	12	13	6		
Altona City		8	2	2	4	7	16	5		
Ringwood Utd.		7	2	1	4	7	16	5		
Dandenong City		7	1	2	4	3	11	4		
Hamlyn Rangers		7	0	3	4	4	15	3		
Mornington		8	0	0	8	3	66	0		
VIC THREE										
Springvale Utd.		8	6	1	1	17	13	13		
West Brunswick		8	5	1	2	15	7	11		
Keilor		8	5	1	2	10	7	11		
Clanra		8	4	1	3	15	12	9		
Geelong		7	4	0	3	9	7	8		
Rosanna		8	3	2	3	12	12	8		
Bell Park		7	3	1	3	14	13	7		
Yarraville		8	3	1	4	14	14	7		
Port Melbourne		8	2	3	3	10	10	7		
Cone/Geelong		8	2	3	3	14	17	7		
Moorabbin City		8	2	2	4	11	11	6		
Yallourn		8	1	4	3	7	8	6		
F.T. Gully		8	2	1	5	10	15	5		
Moreland Pk Rgr		8	2	1	5	12	24	5		
RESERVES										
West Brunswick		8	7	0	1	19	11	14		
Yallourn		8	6	1	1	26	5	13		
Moorabbin City		8	4	3	1	26	8	11		
Clanra		8	4	1	3	25	17	9		
Yarraville		7	4	1	2	17	10	9		
Cone/Geelong		8	3	3	2	10	10	9		
Springvale Utd.		7	4	1	2	13	14	9		
F.T. Gully		7	2	3	2	15	19	7		
Rosanna		8	2	2	3	16	16	6		
Moreland Pk Rgr		8	1	3	4	11	14	5		
Keilor		7	1	3	3	13	19	5		
Bell Park		7	0	3	4	4	24	3		
Port Melbourne		6	0	2	4	6	15	2		
Geelong		7	1	0	6	2	22	2		
VIC FOUR										
Seaford Utd.		8	5	2	1	16	7	12		
Lalor Utd.		8	5	2	1	7	3	12		
Williamstown		8	4	3	1	14	10	11		
Keysborough		8	4	2	2	17	12	10		
Holland Park		8	4	1	3	16	11	9		
Pascoe Vale		8	0	3	3	8	8	9		
Hawthorn		8	0	3	2	11	12	9		
Coburg		8	2	4	2	11	13	8		
Boronia		8	2	2	4	12	13	8		
Diamond Vly Utd.		8	2	2	4	10	12	6		
Karnagall Utd.		8	2	2	4	7	13	6		
Prahran		8	2	2	4	10	17	6		
Langwarrin		8	2	1	5	7	9	5		
East Brunswick		8	1	1	6	10	16	3		
RESERVES										
Diamond Vly Utd.		8	7	0	1	34	3	14		
Hawthorn		8	6	1	1	20	9	13		
Lalor Utd.		8	4	3	1	17	12	11		
Boronia		8	4	2	2	17	10	10		
Holland Park		7	4	0	3	15	11	8		
Prahran		8	4	0	4	14	13	8		
Coburg		8	4	0	4	15	19	8		
Keysborough		7	2	3	2	13	14	7		
Williamstown		8	2	3	3	16	20	7		
Seaford Utd.		8	3	1	4	14	18	7		
Karnagall Utd.		7	2	1	4	10	17	5		
Langwarrin		6	1	2	3	7	9	4		
East Brunswick		6	1	0	5	6	31	2		
Pascoe Vale		7	0	0	7	4	16	0		
PROV ONE										
Ardeer		7	6	1	0	23	8	13		
Nth Sunshine		8	5	2	1	13	6	12		
Greensborough		8	4	3	1	15	6	11		
Chelsea		8	4	2	2	16	11	10		
Melton		8	5	0	3	17	13	10		
Regent		8	3	3	2	11	8	9		
Balaclava		8	2	3	3	12	15			
Clayton		8	2	3	3	17	18			
Malvern City		8	1	5	2	7	9			
Central City		8	3	0	5	10	12			
Ivanhoe City		8	2	2	4	9	11			
PROV TWO										
Ascot Vale City		8	6	2	0	21	8	14		
Bermwick City		8	5	3	0	17	5	13		
Brunswick City		8	5	2	1	18	9	10		
Westmeadows		8	4	3	1	15	10	11		
Cranbourne		8	4	2	2	18	10	10		
Mossfield		8	4	2	2	17	12	10		
Monbulk		8	4	1	3	11	8			
Glenroy		8	3	1	4	19	14			
Batem Utd.		8	3	1	4	10	19			
Dingley Utd.		8	2	2	4	12	13			
Sth Yarra		8	2	2	4	11	15			
Monash Uni		8	1	2	5	16	20			
Forest Hill		8	1	0	7	5	22			
Wandana		8	0	0	8	5	30			
RESERVES										
Monbulk		8	5	3	0	17	4	11		
Bermwick City		8	5	2	1	15	10	10		
Monash Uni		8	4	3	1	23	6	10		
Ascot Vale Cy		8	4	2	2	17	13	11		
Westmeadows		7	4	1	2	13	8			
Dingley Utd.		7	4	1	2	15	12			
Glenroy		8	3	2	3	19	12			
Mossfield		8	3	2	3	14	11			
Batman Utd.		8	3							

NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE LEAGUE DIV 1 GR 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	10	9	1	0	28	7	19
W'ringah F/WaterL	10	8	1	1	27	10	17
Sutherland	10	7	1	2	24	14	15
Uruguay/Penrith	10	7	1	2	14	12	15
Melita/Eagles	10	7	0	3	36	10	14
Ku-Ring-Gai	10	5	2	3	11	7	12
W'gong/Mace.	10	4	2	4	9	13	10
Canterbury	10	4	0	6	14	18	8
Manly/Warringah	10	3	1	6	7	14	7
Newcastle	10	3	1	6	8	22	7
Canberra/Griffin	9	3	0	6	14	24	6
Wollongong/City	10	2	0	8	10	25	4
Rockdale/Ilinden	10	1	1	8	11	18	3
Inter/Monaro	9	0	1	8	4	29	1

STATE BANK SOCCER LEAGUE

	1st	2nd
Ku-ring-gai v Sutherland	1-1	0-0
Inter Monaro v Newcastle	1-1	0-1
Manly W'gah v Warringah F/W	0-2	0-1
Uruguayan Penrith v Canberra City	0-1	2-1
Rockdale Ilinden v Cant M'ille Oly	6-0	0-1
Wollongong Macedonla v Blacktown City	1-2	1-3
Melita Eagles v Wollongong City	2-1	6-1

STATE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

	1st	2nd	3rd
S.S.C. Yugal v Polonia	0-4	0-2	3-4
Cambelltown City v Avala	0-4	2-3	1-1
Queens Park v Gladesville Hby	1-2	1-1	1-2
Dee Why Swans v Nth Syd Artamon	0-2	1-0	1-0
Fairy Meadow v Bathurst 75	3-1	1-4	2-1
Blacktown United v Kingsford	2-1	0-1	0-5
Sydney Maccabi v North Bankstown	0-1	3-4	0-5

STATE LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

	1st	2nd	3rd
Baulkham Hills v King Tomislav	2-4	2-0	2-1
West United v Uni of N.S.W.	1-2	7-0	postponed
Moorebank L'pool v Canterbury Dist	6-1	5-3	0-1
Nth Ryde RSL v Granville Chile	0-4	1-3	2-2
Mt. Druitt Town v Rooty Hill	0-0	0-07	2-2
Port Hacking v Campbelltown	1-1	0-5	1-0
Concordia v Bondi Marine	2-2	0-4	2-4

INTER URBAN 1ST DIVISION

	1st	2nd
Pagewood v Eastwood S/A	3-0	1-1
West St. George v Spanish Club	5-0	2-2
Hawkesbury Dist v Sydney Uni	1-1	1-1
Padstow Park v Dulwich Hill	4-1	1-4
Rosebery v Fairfield Kiev	4-1	2-0
Nineven Eagles v Chelsea	2-2	1-1

INTER URBAN 2ND DIVISION

	1st	2nd
Concord Juniors v Wenty Waratah	0-0	6-0
Haberfield Peru v Rangers Hajduk	0-4	0-1
Trasandinos Sports v Macquarie Uni	2-2	1-1
Welcome Sports v Greenisland	1-1	2-0
Liverpool City v Maroubra	not played	
Chile Sports v Schofields	3-0	1-2

INTER URBAN 3RD DIVISION

	1st	2nd
Cyprus United v Petersham	2-1	1-0
Crescent Star v Murray Farm	1-0	1-5
Argentinian v Blacktown Wands	1-2	2-4
Castle Hill v Lansvale United	1-4	2-4
Abruzzi v Lithgow	3-1	5-1
Murray Farm v Petersham	4-1	2-1
Blacktown Wands v Crescent Star	1-1	2-1
S.S.C. Zagreb v Colo Colo	1-2	2-3
Murray Farm v Petersham	4-1	2-1

INTER URBAN 4TH DIVISION

	1st	2nd
Greystanes v Luddenham Croatia	1-1	5-0
Liverpool Oly v Alexander	2-6	1-1
Orange Waratah v Assyrian	6-0	4-3
Chullora v Cobreloa	not played	
Lebanon v Prospect United	1-0	2-5
Arncliffe RSL v Hellas	not played	
Alexander v Luddenahm Croatia	not played	

REVAMP

BY MICHAEL MIKOLAJCZYK

The reductions to the English League will not take place next season as previously reported.

The play-off system was introduced this year to familiarise clubs with the mode of elimination when the League is re-vamped in 1988/89.

Meanwhile, the greater prospects of winning promotion or avoiding relegation will act as a powerful incentive for middle-order teams to be totally competitive, right up to the final whistle of the last game.

With more at stake it is envisaged that many meaningless matches will be eliminated bringing a welcome crowd rise.

Fourth Division newcomers, Scarborough, made their arrival known at Wembley during the recent Cup Final.

A huge red and white banner proclaimed them as the 1991/92 First Division Champions.

Aiming high right from the start . . . that's confidence for you.

FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPIONS: Everton.

RELEGATED: Aston Villa, Manchester City Leicester City.

PLAY-OFF: Charlton Athletic.

SECOND DIVISION:

CHAMPIONS: Derby County.

PROMOTED: Portsmouth.

RELEGATED: Grimsby Town, Brighton & H.A.

TOP PLAY-OFF: Oldham Athletic, Leeds United, Ipswich Town.

BOTTOM PLAY-OFF: Sutherland.

THIRD DIVISION:

CHAMPIONS: Bournemouth.

PROMOTEDE: Middlesbrough.

RELEGATED: Newport County, Darlington, Carlisle United.

TOP PLAY-OFF: Swindon Town, Wigan Athletic, Gillingham.

BOTTOM PLAY-OFF: Bolton Wanderers.

FOURTH DIVISION:

CHAMPIONS: Northampton.

PROMOTED: Preston North End, Southend United.

PLAY-OFF: Wolverhampton Wanderers, Colchester United, Aldershot.

Lincoln City drop out of the Football League and Scarborough are promoted from the GM-Vauxhall Conference League.

ENGLISH LEAGUE

FIRST LEG PLAY-OFFS

DIV. 1-2: Ipswich 0 Charlton 0. Leeds 1 Oldham 0.

DIV. 2-3: Gillingham 3 Sunderland 2. Wigan 2 Swindon 3.

DIV. 3-4: Aldershot 1 Bolton 0. Colchester 0 Wolverhampton 2.

Victorian State League from Page 8

AN OWN GOAL COSTS WESTS

AN OWN-GOAL by former Frankston Pines ace John Cullen wrapped up the game for Pines as they defeated Western Suburbs 1-0.

Pines showed that while they may now be short of experience Danny McMinimiee still has vast reserves of character to call on.

The side which lined up against Suburbs had two 16-years-old players - Jimmy McMinimiee and Sammy Richardson - while up front were Graham Smith and McGinnigle who are both in their late teens.

Jim Condilis's team piled the pressure on Pines in the first half but in the 30th minute Pines took the lead when Cullen managed to chip his own keeper Spiro Kardamitis with a back-pass which went astray.

Cullen, who was signed from Pines for \$4,000 earlier this year, failed to hit his straps and was taken off for Liam McCluskey in the 75th minute.

Suburbs' new signing from England, Sammy

Pierce, made his debut only four days after arriving in the country and had a good game. Suburbs are also waiting on Yugoslav Zeljko Popovic to complete the formalities that will allow him to sign with the club.

Suburbs' pressure play continued into the second half where at one stage they won five corner kicks in a row and saw one of them hit the crossbar.

Next week Richie Armstrong and Craig Miller will return to the Pines team after their suspensions while Billy Buchanan is expected to be out for a few more weeks with a back injury.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Kardamitis, Macleod, Stefanidis, Kyrlazis (Kountouris 75th), Dimovski, Hamill, Farmer, Smallman, Cullen (McCluskey 75th), Farmer, Tuck, Pierce.

FRANKSTON: Radov, Watson, Bozic, Parks, McMinimiee McDonagh 60th), Bentley, Ferris, Thurlow, Richardson, Smith, McGinnigle.

A FIZZER OF A LOSS FOR FALCONS

MORWELL FALCONS coach Dave O'Connor promised fireworks in the wake of his team's shock 2-0 defeat at home to lowly Broadmeadows.

"We were embarrassing in front of goal," he said after the game. "We have been playing attractive football and making plenty of chances but we have forgotten how to score.

"Falcons have now gone three games without putting the ball in the back of the net.

"It can't continue like this. All season we have had a goal-scoring problem and while I have always instructed my teams to play attacking football I cannot let this club get relegated.

"Heads will roll this week. I plan three, maybe four, changes and we will now go out playing completely defensively looking for points. Next week against Dinamo I will be looking for a 0-0 draw."

While Falcons couldn't get the ball in the net on Sunday Broadmeadows,

strengthened by the signing of Lech Gregorczyk from Polonia and the return of Steve Blair, scored twice to take the points.

Gerry Edmondson shot Broadmeadows into the lead in the 55th minute when a half-cleared corner fell to Blair who ballooned the ball straight into the air.

Keeper Eacott tried to get under the ball but lost it and Peter Kadecik let Edmondson through to score.

The nail in Falcons' coffin came five minutes from time when Gregorczyk directed a free kick to Terry Nolan whose glancing header sealed the game.

MORWELL: Eacott, Clark, Bruns, Colachello, Kotis (Bozzini 80th), E.Cassar, O'Callaghan, Tutill (Sostak 75th), Stirlon, Webster, A.Cassar.

BROADMEADOWS: Pace, Smart, Clantar, Donaldson, Higham, Blair, Vizzini, Nolan, Gregorczyk, Kadecik, Edmondson (Liberto 73rd).



Chris Andriotis on the move for Oakleigh.

CITY WIN IN GOAL FEAST

A HIGHLY entertaining five goal game saw Springvale City run out 3-2 victors over Oakleigh on Sunday.

An early onslaught allowed the Vales to race to a 2-0 lead with goals coming in the 10th and 30th minute.

The first saw Rab Stewart head a throw-in goalwards which an Oakleigh defender could only deflect into his own net.

Bobby McLachlan's team went further ahead when Nelson met a pass from Jim Williams and hammered a low drive from 25m which gave the keeper Ioakamidis no chance.

Two minutes before half-time Oakleigh got back in

the game when referee Torbut Sorenson controversially awarded it a penalty for a rough tackle on the edge of the box.

Ace striker Ally Dick took the spot kick placing it to Dennis Boland's left but Boland brilliantly saved.

However, Sorenson judged that Springvale defender Keith Adams had encroached on the box and ordered it to be retaken.

Dick made no mistake the second time.

From then on it was all Oakleigh and Kris

Kalifatidis's team drew level in the 53rd minute when Jimmy Ross finished a delightful one-two with a shot past Boland.

However, the Vales' defence stood firm and 10 minutes from time the team sewed up the game when Williams unleashed a tremendous drive from 20m which hit the underside of the bar and bounced in.

SPRINGVALE: Boland, Vogel, Hobson, Adams, Blessinger, Swincoe, Bannon, R.Stewart, Vasic (Garvey 85th), House, Williams.

OAKLEIGH: Ioakamidis, Laletas, Pahlina, Langsbury, Tsolopoulos, S.Gusic (Irvine 60th), J.Gusic, Ross, Pollitis, Dick, Andriotis (Paparas 70th).

Letters to the Editor

INTERSTATE MATCHES

FOLLOWING Australian Soccer for a number of years, I could not understand why an interstate competition has never been seriously attempted, during the months of October, November, December.

I say this for three important reasons.

- It is a period
- of dormant major sporting activity.
- When the various Soccer factions are inactive.
- When certain matches have attracted good crowds, (New York Cosmos 1979, South Korea 1973).

I believe for the above two reasons it would work if

- During the normal season all various factions from National League to under sevens are constantly reminded of the forthcoming interstate contest by way of a prize related competition under the name of that contest.
- The games are evenly balanced, i.e. after the stronger states have chosen their sides on a state of origin combined with a residency basis, the weaker states teams could have the pick of the rest chosen by an expert panel.

- The proposal by one of your journalists to decide a game on penalties

be adopted if a draw eventuates with the associated points system also.

I would through your paper, appreciate a reply to this proposal regarding the fors and against's, from any of your Soccer experts.

V.R. Wake,
Everton Hills 4053

'NATIONAL' LEAGUE?

IT may have gone unnoticed in the southern states, but Soccer has been under seige up here in Queensland, with the expansion of the VFL, the impending rugby league Sydney involvement, and the unparalleled success and financial expansion of rugby union.

Brian Kerle and his Brisbane Bullets basketballers are also having a profound effect, drawing 12,000 out to Boondall but probably the area of most concern is in the code of Soccer itself.

The "National League" gurus have successfully eliminated Brisbane, Newcastle, Canberra and Wollongong and it must have been a tragic blow when they couldn't shake off Adelaide as well.

The recent Sydney City fiasco has highlighted the narrow-minded views of a small number

of self-interested people. Viewed from afar, the administration today holds little credibility throughout the sporting arena.

Alas! if some veiled hints in your paper come true, we may soon see the withdrawal of more clubs from our "national" competition.

The recent dumping of Ian Brusasco is just another manipulation of the short-term interests of a select band of people.

Now we read in your paper that the Bicentennial Gold Cup to be held in July next year should cover Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra.

I can see Argentina and Brazil enjoying playing in our national capital in the middle of winter!

The likes of the world champions or Brazil and Australia would undoubtedly attract a lot of attention.

You can bet your boots the other codes will be taking full advantage of Expo 88 to promote their own particular sport.

Now that I've let the cat out of the bag, come on, Mr Emery and Mr Perkins, let's see something positive coming out of your future plans for your neighbours from the north.

Bob Butchard,

Inala Qld

PAPAKURA's trip down to Kawerau for their Chatham Cup game turned out to be a weekend the club would rather forget.

The day before, Paul White broke a bone in his hand. Then, on arriving at the club early on the day of the game, they found that the club had been vandalised by spray-painters.

Then minutes short of Kawerau, a landslide had blocked the road, so they turned around, went back to Rotorua, and went in via Edgecumbe.

Then they discovered that the club had moved grounds, and finally arrived some 25 minutes late. They took the field after hurriedly getting changed, and after 15 minutes, Bruce McGrath was taken off with concussion, and Steve Butler dislocated his shoulder.

Later on, Andy Berry received his third caution of the year. After failing to score after 120 minutes, they missed three penalties, and were knocked out. They got home at midnight, very tired!



FORMER Manchester United boss Ron Atkinson has been offered \$550,000 over two years to manage top Turkish side Fenerbache.

"Of course I'm interested," says Flash Ron. "The money is fantastic, but I'll believe it when I get it in writing. 'How's my Turkish? Delightful. How's yours?'"

FORMER Northern Ireland skipper SAMMY McILROY, holder of nearly 90 caps was signed by third division club Bury on a free transfer from Manchester City.

The 33 year old, who still harbours wishes to represent his country, has recently returned from a stint on loan in Sweden.

Hall appealed after being suspended for three weeks, but lost and was also ordered to pay the cost of the hearing by the North Wales Coast FA.



The ball came across, broke loose, Auckland broke away and scored. Didn't they feel silly!

Dynamo Kiev have become the first Soviet side to link up with shirt sponsors. West German computer manufacturers Commodore have paid an undisclosed sum to have their name on Kiev's shirts for European matches.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

The Colombian Referees' Association are refusing to provide officials for ladies matches ... because they are too brutal!

Their decision was taken after one game during which a ref was attacked by a group of players and a linesman received a black eye.

A referees' spokesman says: "It is much more difficult to handle

WORLD WIDE SHORTS

WIMBLEDON manager Dave Bassett has blotted his copy-book in a big way and now faces a severe rap on the knuckles after a particularly unpleasant attack on Spurs' Belgian international Nico Claesen.

The Belgian was involved in an incident which led to Brian Gayle being sent off. And Bassett, in an outburst that was almost from Monty Python, sounded off in a big way.

He said: "Claesen said that Gayle spat at him. That's got to be a record because Gayle was 25 yards away."

"Claesen was a disgrace. If that's what the Continentals are going to do when they come over here they can get stuffed."

"I would hate to be on Belgium's side in a fight. No wonder Germany roared straight through them in the War."

Thank you, Winston Churchill!

FORMER Northern Ireland skipper SAMMY McILROY, holder of nearly 90 caps was signed by third division club Bury on a free transfer from Manchester City.

GARY Bailey isn't the only keeper in the wars. Bailey has been forced to quit the game because of a serious knee injury.

Now there are doubts about the long-term fitness of Zimbabwe international Bruce Grobbelaar, who will be out for months after breaking and dislocating his right elbow.

Grobbelaar is optimistic he will be fit for the start of the new season, but major reservations have been expressed and Liverpool are looking for a replacement.

THE bombastic Chelsea chairman Ken Bates is at it again. His latest idea to save Stamford Bridge from property developers Marler Estates takes some believing.

"Charity begins at home," says Bates, who wants every Chelsea supporter to contribute a minimum of £1,000 to a fighting fund.

"We can raise millions this way," says Bates, who says he will be donating the £3 million he has invested in Marler.

I wonder if he will also lob in the other lucrative holding he has in Marler under a nominee?

SPURS keeper Ray Clemence has just cracked Pat Jennings record of 757 League appearances.

But he's a long way to go before he catches Terry Paine, who played 824 times for Southampton.



MEXICO's World Cup manager Bora Milutinovic is set to take over as coach of San Lorenzo in Argentina.

FORMER Scotland star Derek Johnstone is in an odd position after winning his case against Patrick Thistle for unfair dismissal.

"The problem is they don't want me and I don't want to go back," says the ex-manager.

A financial settlement of around \$6,000 is in the offing.

TERRY Venables looks set to Barcelona for another two years after being turned down for jobs in Italy.

Blank Gunners

Arsenal, who created a club record earlier this season with an unbeaten run of 22 games, reached a less impressive milestone with their recent 1-0 defeat by Everton. It was the first time they'd ever gone six League games without a goal.

SCOTTISH FA secretary Ernie Walker must have spent an afternoon with Alice in Wonderland at the Mad Hatter's tea party.

In the official SFA report of Scotland's lamentable effort in the World Cup he says: "Everything about our preparation for and participation in the 1986 tournament could be said to be entirely successful."

From that the misinformed could be excused for presuming that Scotland had actually won the trophy.

SCOTLAND's skipper in the ill-fated Mexico expedition, Graeme Souness, certainly wouldn't agree with the ludicrous findings of the SFA.

He lost almost three quarters of stone in the spell he was in Mexico and says: "The food was appalling. On the very first meal, I picked up a piece of bread and a chicken had crapped all over it."

"I ate omelettes for the rest of the trip."

QUEENS Park Rangers defender Terry Fenwick will have the groin he so badly injured in the World Cup in Mexico operated on this week and will be out for the rest of the season.

PART-time footballer Mick Byrne of Shamrock Rovers has the chance of making his dreams come true when he plays for Ireland in the Olympic qualifier against Sweden in May.

He will be watched by officials of top French side St Etienne and unless he throws a couple into the net is almost certain to be signed.

Mick's surname is unquestionably more suited to goalkeeping than some of the current stars in the French First Division. Dominique Dropsy and Joel Bats to name but two.

MANCHESTER City won't Blackpool's Sam Ellis as their coach.

Shaw's struggling

GARY SHAW's career looks to be in jeopardy following his sixth knee operation in four years.

The 26-year-old Aston Villa striker has played just 24 times since 1983 and now admits: "I don't want to make too much of these problems because they have been going on for so long. But I am worried."

Wolves' push for Fourth Division promotion has still not been enough to win manager GRAHAM TURNER the security of a contract.

Says chairman DICK HOMDEN: "We are 100 per cent behind Graham but we always seem to have more important things to deal with. We hope the matter will be discussed in the close season."



COVENTRY CITY captain BRIAN KILCLINE holds the FA Cup aloft following the 3-2 victory over Tottenham at Wembley Stadium.

CLASSIC CUP

COVENTRY CITY, pulled off a sensational upset in the FA Cup final, when they defeated Tottenham Hotspur 3-2 at Wembley after 120 minutes of scintillating football.

What a magnificent 115th Cup Final it was.

Spurs hit the lead in the 2nd minute through a Clive Allen header following a neat cross from Chris Waddle.

Despite the setback City's back-four stood firm against the onslaught of Spurs and even contributed to the attack.

The midfielders of Dave Bennett, Lloyd McGrath, Mike Gynn and Nick Pickering worked their hearts out.

The little, dynamic Gynn, a non-regular in the City line-up, was absolutely outstanding.

Coventry equalised in the ninth minute when Dave Bennett got around Ray Clemence to score from three metres out.

Spurs centre-back Gary Mabbutt put the Londoners ahead three minutes before half-time following a Glenn Hoddle free-kick.

The 63rd minute saw the best goal of the Cup as Coventry, pushing forward for the equaliser, were rewarded.

Keith Houchen lifted Coventry back off the canvas with a magnificent diving header from a cross from Bennett.

Seven minutes into extra-time City hit the lead through an own goal.

A searching cross from McGrath saw Gary Mabbutt "score" his second goal of the match but this one went into his own net.

So the impossible had been achieved by John Sillett's boys.

The Kiwi Column

MOUNT MAUNGANUI striker Greg Little has made an excellent start to his debut season in the Air New Zealand League, maintaining the goal-a-game standard he established with the All Whites in 1985.

Five goals in his first five games this season signalled the return of Little to top flight Soccer after major knee ligament damage. He was given a 50% chance of playing football again prior to the reconstruction operation on the cruciate ligament but now finds the knee doesn't restrict him at all: "I've lost no strength or speed since the operation," said Little. "In fact some say I'm even quicker over 10 yards than before."

Little had to build up the muscles around the knee so as to support it: "I had a rebuilding period with lots of weight training and road running. I then tried to play in a couple of pre-season matches in 1986 but it was no good," he says.

So Little, who had been playing first team football at the Mount since their Division Four South days in 1982, found himself sitting out the season while his team walked away with the Swiss Maid League and Grand Final in their first season in that League.

Little has made the jump from First Division to National League Soccer so far without a hiccup (he is top scorer and Mount are lying second behind North Shore) but he doesn't feel the football is much different: "A game's a game isn't it," states Little, "but maybe the National League is a bit more physical."

In 1985 Little made six appearances for the All Whites, scoring six goals before the knee injury. Now that he is fit, he hopes to make a return to the New Zealand squad but admits: "Personally I think I'm not as fit as I could be but I hope to be ready soon."

Little also feels he owes a lot to Eddie Edge, his coach at Mt Maunganui: "Eddie has certainly made a big difference to my style of football. He has helped me to be a more complete footballer and I tend to do a lot more running."

WEST END NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

WEST
END

WEEKEND FIXTURES

WEST
END

ROUND 9

SUNDAY 2.30PM

OLYMPIC PARK NO.1

MELBOURNE CROATIA v SYD OLYMPIC

MARCONI STADIUM

MARCONI v SUNSHINE G.C.

LAMBERT PARK

APIA-LEICHHARDT v PRESTON MAK

OLYMPIC VILLAGE

HEIDELBERG UTD v SOUTH MELBOURNE

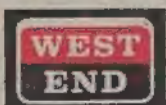
ST GEORGE STADIUM

ST GEORGE v SYDNEY CROATIA

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